Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-158
Thursday
17 August 1989

Daily Report
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FBIS-NES-89-158 *17 August 1989*

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Palestinian Affairs

Khalaf Terms Latest U.S.-PLO Talks 'Very Bad'

JN1708074489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0645 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Aug (WAKH)—Salah Khalaf, Fatah Central Committee member, has said that the latest round of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue "was very bad" and that the only new things there were "the tough U.S. tone and the threats."

He added that during that round, "the same ridiculous topics including elections in the West Bank and Gaza" were discussed.

In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD published here today, Khalaf stressed that the United States continues its total bias toward the Israeli position. This is a result of the disintegration of the Arab world and its weak stands, he said.

He said the entire world testified that the recent Fatah congress resolutions were excellent. The United States was the only exception—"it concluded that the Fatah congress is against peace."

However, Khalaf said the PLO will not discontinue its dialogue with the U.S. Administration, although the dialogue will be useless if it continues in this way. At the same time, Khalaf ruled out the likelihood of upgrading the dialogue to other levels.

Khalaf stressed that the latest Palestine National Council session in Algiers did not cancel the option of armed struggle. There is a common error among those who do not distinguish between an intifadah [uprising] that does not hold arms and armed struggle, he said.

He said the PLO neither made pledges to any party to cancel the armed struggle nor issued statements or hints to this effect. Our view, he explained, is that it is not necessary for the intifadah to hold arms so that it will not give the enemy the opportunity to crush it. This, he added, does not prevent launching operations outside the framework of the intifadah.

More on Al-Sa'ih's Statements on Lebanon, U.S.

JN1608183389 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Palestine National Council [PNC] Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih has urged the United States to shoulder its international responsibilites and work solemnly in the interest of Middle East peace. In a press statement published in Amman today, Al-Sa'ih said world peace, and by extension regional peace, is not on the agenda of the Zionist occupation authorities. Hence, Israel contrives obstacles to the peace plan pursued by the PLO and its institutions. The closing statement of Fatah's fifth general congress, he added, explicitly calls for peace and accommodates the will of the international community to spare the region the afflictions of wars. Al-Sa'ih said the occupation authorities want for this region to remain a source of anxiety and fear so Israel may be able to [words indistinct].

Al-Sa'ih underscored the need for the United States to bring pressure to bear on the Zionist entity as it is in the interest of the world that Israel take the course of peace. Israel must understand that the Palestinian people have a natural right to set up an independent state on their national soil, said the PNC speaker.

Cited on Coordination With Jordan

JN1708080689 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 17 Aug 89 p 1

[Text] Amman, QNA—The Palestine National Council [PNC] speaker, His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, has said that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Jordan has significant importance in view of the fact that the Zionist enemy is continuing its terrorist practices in the occupied Arab territories. This calls for continued coordination and consultation between the Jordanian and Palestinian leaders, he said.

In statements to the QNA correspondent in Amman, His Eminence Shaykh al-Sa'ih said that Jordan has a distinguished position in the Palestine question, and issues related to it, and works continuously to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and secure the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and establish their independent state on the Palestinian territory with Jerusalem as its capital.

The PNC speaker referred to the tragic situation in Lebanon saying that it constitutes a grave danger to the future of Arab Lebanon, its territorial unity, and the Palestinian people's cause. He urged all those with a live conscience to respond quickly to the UN call and to urge the Arab tripartite committee to cease fire immediately and work to save Lebanon.

Uprising Leadership Reportedly Issues Communique

NC1608152389 Paris AFP in English 1500 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Nicosia, Aug 16 (AFP)—Underground leaders of the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories have warned Arabs to avoid meeting Israeli officials for fear of a "plot" to undermine the PLO's authority.

The Unified Leadership of the Uprising, in a communique received here Wednesday, said Israeli officials were "plotting" to find an alternative to the PLO in talks on a plan for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's plan calls for polls in the territories to allow Palestinians to choose leaders other than the Palestine Liberation Organisation to negotiate with Israel over a future settlement.

The Unified Leadership "confirms its refusal to meet all Israelis, officials or not, who would be unfavorable to a total and unconditional withdrawal from the occupied territories and to the right of self-determination," said the communique, which was distributed in the territories.

Anyone ignoring the warning would be "rebelling against the national line," the PLO-backed leadership said.

It stressed a uniform approach for punishing Palestinians who collaborate with Israelis. Collaborators must first be warned and given a chance to repent before execution is considered, it said.

Palestinians have lynched about 100 suspected collaborators since the uprising erupted in December 1987.

The leadership also stressed the need to establish contacts with Hamas, a Muslim fundamentalist movement, to better coordinate the uprising.

It warned against communiques distributed by the Israeli secret services aimed at undermining the uprising.

The PLO last month said communiques accusing three prominent Palestinians of collaboration were false and the work of Israeli intelligence.

The Unified Leadership also called for a strike on August 21, the anniversary of a fire at al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem.

West Bank Palestinians who work in Israel meanwhile are to strike August 18 and August 25 in solidarity with their Gaza Strip colleagues who refuse to wear electronic identity tags imposed on them by Israeli authorities.

Intisar al-Wazir Interviewed on Fatah Elections

PM1608101589 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 11 Aug 89 p 9

[Report on interview with Fatah Central Committee member Intisar al-Wazir by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] After the fifth fatah Congress held in Tunis elected Intisar al-Wazir (Umm-Jihad) a member of the Central Committee—this is the first time a woman has been included in that high level of the Palestinian organizational structure—AL-MADINAH conducted an interview with Umm-Jihad in which she affirmed that the elections were conducted in a democratic atmosphere and that she was elected to the Central Committee not because she is a woman, but on the basis of her struggle records. Intisar al-Wazir said that her victory in the elections reflected the extent of the participants' confidence in the struggle march in which she, together with the Fatah Movement, has engaged since 1959 in the early cells of the organization in the Gaza Strip.

She added that "my inclusion in the Fatah Central Committee represents a penetration of the unintentional siege imposed on the Palestinian woman with regard to joining such frameworks."

Answering a question by AL-MADINAH on whether Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] had known before his death of her wish to run for Central Committee membership, Umm-Jihad said: "On our way back from the last meeting of the committee preparing for the fifth congress I told him I wanted to run for Central Committee membership, so he replied: I will withdraw in your favor. And I sensed what he meant by that. He meant martyrdom. Abu-Jihad was opposed to our being together in one framework."

Furthermore, Umm-Jihad affirmed that the new Fatah Central Committee is characterized by a high level of harmony and understanding among its elected members, and it will be committed to the political program and the organizational resolutions adopted by the fifth Fatah congress. Umm-Jihad also emphasized that the political program endorsed by the congress includes the escalation of military action in areas remote from the areas populated by Palestinian residential communities. With regard to specifying those areas, Intisar al-Wazir said that the congress has not yet defined those areas, what is meant is the occupied territories. She noted that the new committee was elected on the basis of that program and must adhere to it. Umm-Jihad added that the general congress supported the resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council in Algiers as well as the independence document. The congress also urged struggle via all political and military means in order to achieve our legitimate aims: the Palestinian people's right to repatriation, to self-determination, and to establish their independent state, whose capital is Jerusalem.

With regard to the military presence—namely, Brigadier General Muhammad Jihad and Colonel Nasr Yusuf—in the Central Committee's new structure and whether their presence means military escalation, Umm-Jihad said that the military presence in the movement's Central Committee is not a new phenomenon, since in the past martyr Sa'd Sayil joined the Central Committee via the fourth general congress held in Damascus in 1980. She also noted that there were seven candidates in the elections: Abu-al-Mu'tasim, Haj Isma'il, Haj Mutlaq, 'Abd-al-Razzaq Mu'aydah; Colonel Nasr Yusuf—who was commander of al-Karamah Forces in Jordan and was nominated by the Military Council—and Brigadier Muhammad Jihad, commander of the Algeria camp, and he nominated himself in his personal capacity, not in his capacity as Military Council member.

Umm-Jihad pointed out that Fatah is a single movement and there is no discrimination in it. She also said that many figures did not win. Among them are Yahya 'Ashur Hamdan; Sa'id al-Muzayyin (Abu-Hisham), former PLO representative in the Kingdom; Ahmad Wasi, former director of the movement's office in Algiers; Nabi 'Amr; Mundhir Dajani, present director of the PLO office in Algiers; Fu'ad al-Bitar, director of the PLO office in Athens; 'Izzat Abu-al-Rabb, director of Libya's office; and 'Uthman Abu-Gharbiyah.

PLO Agency Head Comments on Fatah Elections

PM1608100189 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 10 Aug 89 p 9

[Unattributed report: "Fatah Announces Names of Central Committee Members"]

[Excerpt] Tunis, AL-MADINAH Bureau and News Agencies—[Passage omitted] In an exclusive press statement to AL-MADINAH, Ziyad 'Abd-al-Fattah, director of the Palestinian news agency, emphasized that rejuvenation was the predominant nature of the new Fatah Central Committee. This was in addition to the growing inclination toward including a woman—namely, Mrs Intisar al-Wazir (Umm-Jihad)—for the first time. Ziyad 'Abd-al-Fattah denied that the military phenomenon is the distinctive characteristic of the new Central Committee, saying that Brigadier General Muhammad Jihad's and Colonel Nasr Yusuf's presence has nothing to do with a new military program for the movement. He pointed out that it cannot be said that there are military in the Central Committee, because the military did not approve Brig Gen Muhammad Jihad's nomination. The military told him to choose between not running for office and resignation, so he preferred to resign and decided to run for office in his personal capacity. As for Colonel Nasr Yusuf, he is in Jordan and has assumed no military tasks for a long time. With regard to the appointment of 3 members to the Central Committee so as to increase its membership to 21, Ziyad 'Abd-al-Fattah said that the Fatah Central Committee will meet, whenever necessary, to decide by a 75 percent majority on the daily struggle action. And he noted that it is the Central Committee which will choose the Politburo, which will comprise 7 to 11 members. The committee will also allocate the tasks to its members.

Meanwhile, Egypt yesterday welcomed Yasir 'Arafat's election as leader of the movement by the fifth general congress of the Fatah Movement, the PLO's major group.

This was mentioned in a statement today by Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid in which he described 'Arafat's election as new evidence of the Palestinians' confidence in his national leadership and sincere efforts to reach a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian problem.

It is worth mentioning that among the most notable of those who lost the Fatah Central Committee elections are Rafiq al-Natshah (Abu-Shakir); Nabil Sha'th, chairman of the fifth Fatah congress; and Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, who is in charge of unified Palestinian information.

Further on Fatah Congress Leadership Elections

PM1708103489 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 18 Aug 89 pp 24-25

[Farid al-Khatib report: "Fatah Congress Promotes 'Arafat But Elects No Deputies for Him"]

[Excerpts] Fatah has entrusted its leadership to Yasir 'Arafat, who succeeded in winning over its fifth general congress held in Tunis, the PLO headquarters, and, as at all past Palestinian congresses and council meetings, in steering the congress toward fulfillment of his own strategic objectives, thus minimizing his losses as much as possible.

'Arafat's title since 1967 had been "Fatah official spokesman" but this congress, held on the eve of 'Arafat's 60th birthday, elected him as Central Committee chairman and secretary general of the Political Bureau created for the first time in a separate election session.

'Arafat's style has once again succeeded in incorporating the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences on the Palestinian question—which the Palestinian leader himself recommended—into the Fatah congress [resolutions] through the adoption of the Palestine National Council [PNC] resolutions. In its final statement Fatah's general congress said: "Fatah's fifth general congress emphasizes the importance of the historic resolutions of the PNC 19th session, particularly the independence document, and supports the establishment of an independent Palestinian state."

However, the congress did not go as far as to support 'Arafat's initiative announced at a news conference last December, which spoke of "the right of existence, peace, and security for all parties concerned with the Middle East conflict... including the state of Palestine and other neighbors, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338," and that "we fully and categorically renounce all forms of terrorism, including individual, group, and state terrorism." [passage omitted]

Some of 'Arafat's candidates for Central Committee membership failed, particularly Colonel Ahmad 'Affani (Abu-al-Mu'tasim) who was in charge of the Palestinian militia in Jordan in 1970, and Nabil Sha'th, the PNC Political Committee chairman who paid a successful informational visit to New York early this year.

For the first time in the movement's history, Rafiq al-Natshah, former Central Committee member since 1980 and PLO office director in Riyadh, lost election to the Central Committee because of disagreements with Central Committee member and 'Arafat adviser Hani

al-Hasan, who also lives in Riyadh. In reply to a question from AL-HAWADITH, congress sources attributed his failure to the fact that, in addition to his dispute with Hani al-Hasan, Al-Natshah did not take any stands during the congress and did not make any alliances. Abu-al-Mundhir, his deputy at the PLO office in Riyadh, was elected a central committee member, however.

Important losers among the new candidates to the Central Committee were Abu-Shamikh, former director of martyr Khalil al-Wazir's office; Haj Isma'il, former commander of the Palestinian forces in southern Lebanon, who was accused of retreating in the face of the Israeli army invasion in 1982; and PLO official spokesman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman. [passage omitted]

It is not yet certain that 'Arafat will open the way to the election of a deputy to him in his capacity as secretary general of the Political Bureau, which was created by this congress and which is expected to include five founding members, namely, Khalaf, Qaddumi, PNC Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah's official in charge of mobilization and organization Muhammad Ghunaym, and [PLO] Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas. It is also expected to include PLO official in charge of security Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid and 'Arafat adviser Hani al-Hasan, both of whem were originally elected as Central Committee members back in 1971, and PNC Deputy Speaker and PLO Office Director in Kuwait Salim al-Za'nun, who was elected in 1981, plus three new Central Committee members. That bring the total number of Political Bureau members to 11. The fact that Qaddumi received more votes than Khalaf in the Central Committee election could result in the election of more than one deputy to 'Arafat as secretary general, outside the general congress framework. [passage omitted]

PLO Supports Emergency Arab Summit on Lebanon
JN1508161889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Tunis, 15 Aug (INA)—The PLO has renewed its support for the convening of an emergency Arab summit to adopt decisive resolutions to deal with the Lebanese crisis and put an end to the activities of those who tamper with the pan-Arab security.

In a statement to INA here today, PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani said Iraq's call for an emergency Arab summit reminded the Arabs of the position of the Iraqi leadership in the Casablanca summit. He said the 3 months following this summit were wasted, with the Lebanese people suffering further destruction and disintegration. These months could have been used to achieve something better than the dead end reached by the tripartite Arab committee, he added. [passage omitted]

Hurani stressed that the PLO's view is the closest to the Iraqi view, and its understanding is completely identical with that of Iraq on the causes of the Lebanese crisis and ways to resolve it. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Condemns Abu-Sharif's Statements
JN1608125389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] In a media statement today, 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Nashshash, official spokesman for the Fatah-Uprising Movement, has condemned the suspect statements made by Bassam Abu-Sharif on the situation in Lebanon.

Al-Nashshash described these statements as going to excess in failing to honor the blood of the martyrs who have fallen to defend Lebanon's Arabism, unity, and its democratic development. He added that these statements express full bias toward the isolationist fascist 'Awn clique, which is working to Zionize Lebanon and to turn it into an imperialist-Zionist protectorate. He went on to say that the statements also seek to harm the Lebanese and Palestinian citizens.

Al-Nashshash indicated that the suspect statements made by Abu-Sharif can represent neither the view of the Palestinian nationalist forces, nor that of the sons of our Palestinian people, nor that of the Lebanese nationalist forces struggling to confront the imperialist-Zionist aggression and its schemes.

The spokesman for the Fatah-Uprising Movement paid tribute to the courageous pan-Arab role being played by revolutionary Syria in confronting the aggression and the conspiracies which seek to undermine the rights of our Lebanese and Palestinian people.

'Arafat, Chedli Klibi Discuss Uprising, Lebanon
JN1508194689 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the state of Palestine and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, received at noon yesterday brother Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi. They discussed a number of important issues, foremost of which was the dangerous situation inside the occupied territories as a result of the increasing Israeli oppression against the Palestinian people and the policy of starvation and siege which the Israeli authorities and forces have started practicing against our people to implement the policy recently announced by the enemy leaders.

They also touched on the situation in Lebanon, the increasing danger there, and the importance of agreeing on an immediate cease-fire to save the innocent Lebanese lives and protect Lebanon's unity, security, and stability. In addition, they discussed a number of other local, Arab, and international issues.

'Arafat Meets With Soviet Ambassador in Tunis

JN1508191889 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Aug

[Text] Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received the Soviet ambassador in Tunis yesterday. The latter conveyed the greetings and congratulations of the Soviet leadership on the results of the fifth Fatah congress, and welcomed the political statement which was issued at the conclusion of the congress' meetings.

During the meeting, they also discussed the situation inside the occupied territories in light of the dangerous policy practiced by the Israeli occupation authorities—the crimes of starvation and siege and escalation of the iron fist policy on a comprehensive scale.

They also discussed the deteriorating situation in Lebanon and the dangers of what is happening there. They concentrated on the importance of stopping this madness immediately to protect the lives of the innocent Lebanese civilians and to safeguard Lebanon's unity, security, and stability. Their talks also touched on a number of other issues and causes.

PNF Chief Warns Against Insufficient Funding

JN1508152689 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Palestine National Fund [PNF] head Jawid al-Ghusayn warned that insufficient Arab financial aid weakens the economic situation of the residents of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Al-Ghusayn said in an interview with the REUTER correspondent that the Casablanca summit resolutions on helping the residents in the regions are not being implemented. The monthly aid amounting to $15 million coming from Saudi Arabia is not enough.

On the other hand, Palestinian sources in Tunis said Yasir 'Arafat will arrive within the next few days in Amman and discuss with Jordanian officials transferring sums of money from the PLO to Jordan to help the country solve its economic problems.

Egypt

'Abd-al-Majid on UN Resolution on Lebanon

NC1608145089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1058 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 Aug (MENA)—Egypt today welcomed the statement which the UN Security Council issued yesterday on the Lebanese crisis. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that Egypt supports the council's statement on this crisis.

He declared that Egypt welcomes the statement's support for the Arab tripartite committee and noted that this support is in agreement with the Egyptian viewpoint. He added that Egypt also agrees with the UN Security Council's call for an urgent and comprehensive cease-fire. He remarked that without a cease-fire agreement that will be implemented and observed, the concerned parties will not be able to focus their efforts on dealing positively and constructively with the crisis.

The foreign minister described the UN Security Council's statement as providing international concensus that supports the work of the Arab tripartite committee and said: We hope this will give it the necessary drive to resume its needed efforts to resolve the crisis at the earliest possible opportunity.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid voiced hope that all the parties which are playing a role in the current regrettable incidents in Lebanon will cooperate with the Arab tripartite committee and not place needless obstacles in its path that are bound to delay the attainment of a settlement that is acceptable to all. He pointed out that such a delay would perpetuate the current situation which would pose a danger to Lebanon's existence and its Arab people.

He asserted that resorting to military options will not settle the Lebanese crisis decisively in favor of any one party in the long run but will help escalate the military confrontation indefinitely and at the expense of the rights and interests of all the concerned parties.

The foreign minister concluded his statement to MENA by saying that the only available alternative is to attain a settlement of the Lebanese crisis that takes the rights, duties, and interests of all parties into account without harming any party's rights and interests in favor of another.

Editorial Urges Immediate Intervention in Lebanon

JN1608092789 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 14 Aug 89 p 5

[Editorial: "What Are They Waiting For?"]

[Text] If the massacre that is being perpetrated on Lebanese soil does not deserve the convocation of an emergency Arab summit to protect an Arab people from mass extermination under the sight and hearing of the world at large, then when does an Arab leaders' meeting become a necessity?

The city of Beirut is being subjected to a systematic and premeditated destruction operation. Its sons are killed and wounded every moment, not to mention that the entire Lebanese people are living in a state of terror and tribulation resulting from the destruction of public utilities, the absence of water and electricity, and the inability of medical services to save hundreds of wounded.

Does this state of affairs, which no Arab or foreign capital has ever experienced, not deserve immediate intervention by the Arab League countries to end this roaring of missiles and heavy guns? It has transformed the Lebanese capital into a pile of rubble and has shed the blood of thousands of defenselss citizens who were unable to escape this inferno whose fire is being fanned by Arab parties.

Iraq has called for an emergency meeting of Arab leaders, and Egypt and other Arab countries supported this call. In spite of this, days, weeks, and even months have passed without the Arabs having agreed on a date for such a summit, although every hour that passes inflicts further losses in human lives, and brings about more destruction. Has the Arab world become so impotent that it is unable to save one of its members before it is completely destroyed and before it is transformed into mass graveyards?

AL-AKHBAR Calls For Arab Summit on Lebanon

NC1608215489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2058 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 Aug (MENA)—The Egyptian AL-AKHBAR newspaper notes the importance and need to hold an emergency Arab summit without delay to discuss the situation in Lebanon and adopt more decisive measures toward the parties which insist on continuing their subversive operations to achieve their goals over the bodies of all the Lebanese people.

In Thursday's editorial, the paper affirms that some Arab leaders have more effective means to influence those who think that they can subdue the Lebanese people with steel and fire and turn their country into ruins.

The paper says: Although the situation in Lebanon has reached a point demanding the adoption of decisive international measures to stop the unceasing killing and destruction, it is better if such outside intervention to solve the Lebanese crisis comes from inside the Arab world itself in the first place, since Lebanon is considered an Arab state and a member of the Arab League.

The paper notes that the failure of the tripartite Arab committee, which was asked by the Casablanca summit to try to end the Lebanese tragedy, to continue its mission must not be considered the end of the Arab efforts.

Paper Prefers Arab, Not International Measures

NC1708072589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0607 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 17 Aug (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR stresses the need for holding an extraordinary Arab summit conference without delay to discuss the situation in Lebanon and adopt firmer measures vis-a-vis those parties who insist on continuing their destructive operations to attain their objectives, even if this is done over the dead bodies of all the Lebanese people.

In an editorial today, the paper affirms that some Arab leaders possess more effective methods to influence those who believe that they are capable of subduing the Lebanese people with fire and of reducing their country to ruins.

The paper adds that despite the fact that the situation in Lebanon has reached a point where the adoption of decisive international measures to end the continuing killing and destruction is necessary, it is preferable that intervention should come primarily from within the Arab world itself because Lebanon is an Arab state and a member of the Arab League.

AL-AKHBAR points out that the inability of the Arab tripartite committee to continue its mission, entrusted to it by the Casablanca summit to seek an end to the Lebanese tragedy, must not represent the end of the road for Arab efforts in this regard.

Columnist Blames Israel for Higgins' Killing

JN1308093289 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 10 Aug 89 p 12

["Thought" column by Mustafa Amin]

[Text] You cannot burn something down with a matchstick or quell a fire with a nuclear bomb. Violence does not solve problems, but complicates them. It does not end crises; rather, it multiplies them.

Some voices in the West are raised pressuring President Bush and trying to convince him that only violence can secure the release of the hostages, put an end to terrorism, and solve the Middle East crisis. These voices say that if the U.S. military planes pound the al-Biqa' region in Lebanon, Damascus, and Iran, it would be enough to restore peace, security, and calm to the region, as they did with Libya. They say the U.S. raid on Tripoli is what made Al-Qadhdhafi become moderate and stop the fedayeen operations against the United States. It is fortunate for the United States that so far it has not listened to this empty talk propagated by Israel in various media organs. Bush has managed to keep his nerve and learn from past lessons. President Carter tried to rescue the hostages in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran through an armed raid. The attempts failed drastically and led to Carter's downfall in the presidential elections. After that, President Reagan tried to punish the terrorists in Lebanon. The terrorists sent a truck packed with dynamite into a U.S. forces' barracks, killing 241 U.S. Marines in one minute. The Americans immediately evacuated from Lebanon.

The pressure on President Bush continues. Voices are raised warning against reaching understanding with Iran or trusting the new Iranian president. Some U.S. officials cite criminologists today as saying: "If you know who benefits from a crime, then you know the criminal." It was not the Shiites who killed U.S. officer Colonel Higgins. It was the Israeli army that abducted the Shiite leader from his home in Lebanon. Had it not been for the abduction, the Shiites would not have resorted to executing the U.S. officer. The abduction aimed to undermine the efforts of the higher tripartite committee consisting of the Moroccan king, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and the Algerian president. The committee almost succeeded in its task and reached a solution agreed on by all Arabs apart from Syria. The essence of implementing the tripartite committee's recommendations means the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon—Israeli, Syrian, and Iranian.

Israel has no interest in solving the Lebanese problem. It does not wish the civil war in Lebanon to end. Iran wants Lebanon to become its overseas colony. Therefore, fingers started to point in the direction of Israel. The Israelis lost their nerve, especially when the Republican Party leader said in the U.S. Congress that the Americans are losing lives due to Israel's mistakes and that Israel is responsible for the execution of the U.S. colonel.

A recent referendum was carried out in the United States, and the results showed that 60 percent of the American people rejected the use of force and 38 percent demanded the use of force.

Perhaps the United States will wake up to the reality which the whole world has started sensing.

'Abd-al-Majid on Ties With Syria, Libya

NC1608131389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 16 Aug (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has described Egyptian-Saudi relations as strong and close, noting that they have always been so. [passage omitted]

In an interview with the Saudi newspaper 'UKAZ published today, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid asserted the importance of coordination and cooperation among the Arab Cooperation Council, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Arab Maghreb Union for the sake of bringing their stands closer and achieving unity of views, particularly as Arab interests are mutual and the goal of all these groupings is cooperation. He declared that these groupings are not aimed against anyone and are designed to

produce more coordination and consultation within the framework of the Arab League. He added that what cannot be achieved by the Arab League can be attained by these regional groupings in view of their mutual interest and geographical links. [passage omitted]

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that Egyptian-Syrian relations are proceeding favorably following the meetings between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad in Kuwait and Casablanca. He said that this bodes well for the Egyptian and Syrian people and the whole Arab nation.

He announced that Egyptian-Libyan relations are also proceeding well. He noted that a series of important measures are being taken and developed on the path of rapprochement and responsiveness. He said this is being done for the good of the two countries and the Arab nation.

The foreign minister asserted that the trust which the African countries placed in President Mubarak by electing him OAU chairman expresses the confidence and appreciation that their leaders have in President Mubarak's policy and wisdom and also for Egypt's African role. He remarked that Egypt has African, Arab, and Islamic roles and responsibilities. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Majid reiterated Egypt's support for the Palestinian people's intifadah [uprising] which constitutes the best response to the continuing Israeli occupation. He said: We condemn the Israeli acts of repression and favor the Palestinian people's attainment of their legitimate rights, the convening of an international conference, and the search for a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian issue.

Reportage on Visit of Cuban Foreign Minister

Meets With 'Abd-al-Majid

NC1508122189 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Official talks between Egypt and Cuba began at the Foreign Ministry this morning under the chairmanship of Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Cuban foreign minister. The two delegations are discussing international issues of mutual interest, the Middle East situation, and the stands that the two countries will adopt during the next nonaligned summit. They are also discussing bilateral ties and ways of promoting them in various spheres.

Comments on Talks

NC1508150089 Cairo MENA in English 1405 GMT 15 Aug 89

Text] Cairo, August 15 (MENA)—Visiting Cuban Foreign Miniser Isidoro Malmierca said today that Egypt and Cuba had agreed to play an effective role to upgrade the Non-Aligned Movement so as to cope with the changes in the world particularly the struggle for peace and development.

Following a session of talks with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Isidoro said that the two sides exchanged viewpoints on preparations for the forthcoming non-aligned summit in september as well as ways of boosting bilateral relations.

Talks Conclude

NC1508212589 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] The Egyptian-Cuban talks led by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, concluded at the Foreign Ministry this evening. Both parties discussed issues pertinent to the forthcoming nonaligned summit scheduled to convene in Belgrade early in September and means of bolstering bilateral ties. They exchanged views on international issues of common concern, particularly the situation in the Middle East.

Received by Mubarak

NC1708105289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca today. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Cuban ambassador in Cairo also attended the meeting.

Following the meeting, the Cuban foreign minister stated that he had conveyed greetings from Cuban President Fidel Castrol to President Husni Mubarak. He added that the meeting had discussed the international situation and the need for cooperation among developing countries, particularly with regard to finding a solution to the foreign debt issue.

They also reviewed ways of coordinating decision-making between African and Latin American countries, particularly during the upcoming nonaligned summit, which will be held in Belgrade soon.

Talks With USSR on Power Station 'Suspended'

JN1508172889 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 13 Aug 89 p 1

[By 'Adil Sabri]

[Text] The Egyptian-Soviet talks on financing the construction of a power station in 'Uyun Musa in southern Sinai have stopped because of the failure of the Soviet side to fix a date for beginning construction of the power station and to give the final word on the amount of financing involved. The Soviets also asked the Egyptians to find a West European country to help the USSR supply the hi-technology equipment required and share with the USSR the financing of the 'Uyun Musa station project. The Egyptian-Soviet talks are expected to remain suspended for 3 months. New negotiations in which the USSR will voice its final position on financing

the project are expected to begin after this 3-month period. During the first phase, the power generation capacity of the 'Uyun Musa station will reach 600 megawatts. The station will be an operational necessity for the power link to be established between Egypt and Jordan. The costs of implementing the first phase of the power station project are estimated to total $500 million. This phase provides for the establishment of two power generation units, with a capacity for generating 600 megawatts, using coal and diesel oil; and also for the establishment of a sea port south of the station to be used for importing the coal required for operating the station.

Interior Minister Comments on Steel Plant Strike
NC1108110589 Cairo MENA in English 1012 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, Aug. 11 (MENA)—Minister of Interior Zaki Badr has said that police intervention to end the recent sit-in strike at the iron and steel works in Hulwan was a must to prevent saboteurs from carrying out subversive acts. Speaking to members of popular council of the suburb of Heliopolis last night, the minister said that some elements known for their extremism, communists and religious, have incited the workers to launch a sit-in strike and enforced them not to leave the site in spite of the fact that the Ministry of Industry had responded to their demands more than a month ago. Badr further said that extremist communist and religious elements had threatened to burn the factory and seize vital centers where transformers were located. They attacked police forces and refused to respond to repeated appeals by the factory administration to end their strike and prevent sabotage, Badr added. He also said that he ordered the detention of 300 people of those known for their suspected affiliations whom he accused of instigating the workers to subvert the factory which is one of industrial bastions in the country. Badr criticized opposition newspapers for their attempts to stir the public opinion and hiding of the truth as well as their violations of the rules of law and decency in covering such events.

Supply Minister Cancels Official Meat Price
JN1608095889 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 14 Aug 89 p 6

[Text] Supply Minister Dr Jalal Abu-al-Dhahab has made a decision to cancel the 1980 official price of meat, which was 250 piasters per kg.

A responsible source said that the reason for this decision is that this price now is not in line with the supply and demand conditions, and that it is far from the prevailing prices in the market which are being dealt with for a long time.

Sudan

Garang Aide Cited on General Strike, Uprising
AB1608185589 Paris AFP in English 1203 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Nairobi, Aug 16 (AFP)—The military junta ruling Sudan should resign and make way for a broad-based government of national unity rebel leader John Garang has urged in a series of radio broadcasts.

That would be a condition for ending the six-year civil war in the south, he added Tuesday [15 August], after an earlier broadcast accusing junta leader Brigadier General 'Umar al-Bashir of having a "hidden agenda" to make Sudan an Islamic state and to partition the country.

A close aide of Colonel Garang in the Sudan People's Liberation Army, Nhial Deng, said Wednesday it was threatening to mount a general strike and a popular uprising if the Junta failed to comply.

Speaking in a telephone interview from the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, Mr. Deng said the rebel peace plan proposed negotiations with the junta. It would step down, and a new government would be formed by the Army, the SPLA, trade unions, professional associations and women's and student organizations, Mr. Deng said. The new government would organize a constitutional conference and fresh elections, he added.

The procedure would imply the formation of a "non-sectarian, non-regional army," Mr. Deng said.

Colonel Garang set no date for negotiations in his broadcasts.

In Khartoum, sources close to the authorities said his proposals for a broad-based government had attracted attention, but there was no official reaction by Wednesday to this charges about imposing an Islamic theocracy.

The SPLA, which scored a series of military successes early this year, has been fighting the central government since 1983 to present domination of the largely Christian and animist black African south by the predominantly Muslim Arab north. [sentence as received] It currently holds all the east of Sudan from the river Sobat and the White Nile to the borders with Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.

There has been practically no fighting since April, when UNICEF, the U.N. Children's Fund, mounted Operation Lifeline to supply emergency food aid to both rebel-held and government areas in the south.

Shammu Interviewed on Peace, Ties With Libya
PM1108155489 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 7 Aug 89 pp 19-21

[Interview with Information Minister 'Ali Muhammad Shammu by Ahmad 'Abd-al-Majid on 17 July in Iraq]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] ['Abd-al-Majid] How do you explain Libya's prompt recognition of the new regime in Sudan?

[Shammu] The Libyan Government has no reason not to recognize the new regime. Its relations with the former regime were normal but not cordial, especially in the days preceeding the change. These relations were very cordial at one point but later cooled. Our explanation as observers is that when the revolution broke out in Sudan the Libyan Government welcomed it, and then when a military delegation head by Revolution Command Council [RCC] member Brigadier General Adam Mahmud Taha visited Libya and explained Sudanese developments to the Libyan leadership a very long dialogue ensued whereby the Libyan brothers learned the true identity and inclinations of the revolution, so they opened their hearts to it and welcomed cooperation with it.

['Abd-al-Majid] Some analysts speak of "Egyptian hands" behind the military change in Sudan. What is your comment on that?

[Shammu] By God, that is unfair to Egypt and to us in Sudan. It is a fabrication and a false assumption based on the fact that relations between Sudan and Egypt were tense in the days of the former regime. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Majid] Some people could question the significance of the "urgent" meeting between [RCC Chairman] Lieutenant General al-Bashir and the U.S. ambassador in Khartoum. What was behind it?

[Shammu] It was a very ordinary meeting. It occurred days after the revolution and after Lt Gen 'Umar Ahmad al-Bashir's meetings with other ambassadors.

['Abd-al-Majid] But he was the first foreign ambassador to be received by him.

[Shammu] No, he was not. He met with a number of other ambassadors and then with the U.S. ambassador. There is nothing against meeting with ambassadors under such circumstances. The United States is a superpower and is interested in knowing the identity of the new regime. So you should not draw any conclusions from such meetings. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Majid] What reactions have you received from John Garang regarding the RCC's peace plan?

[Shammu] So far we have not received an official reply from the "movement," but the expectations and speculations are that the reply will be positive. That is our hope. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Majid] Let us talk about the leaders of the former regime. If Ahmad al-Mirghani, now living abroad, chose to return to Sudan would he meet the same fate as Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi?

[Shammu] I cannot say for certain what would happen to him. There are security measures determined by a committee formed for that purpose. Many politicians have not been arrested. Not every former official or minister is now under arrest.

['Abd-al-Majid] How many politicians have been arrested since the military coup in Sudan?

[Shammu] The number of detainees does not exceed 60. They are all from the leaderships of the major parties such as al-Ummah Party, the Islamic Front, and the Communist Party, in addition to members of some southern parties represented in the south council.

['Abd-al-Majid] While you are in Iraq, I must ask about relations between Baghdad and Khartoum. How do you assess these relations?

[Shammu] Iraq has a leadership with clear vision. It never confuses issues. Even when relations between the two countries reached crisis point Iraq never failed to fulfill its pan-Arab duties. The Iraqi Government does not confuse differences between governments with strategic matters. Iraq gave us arms in times of difficulty. I said then that Iraq did not take the arms out of stores to give to us but took them from its own fighters. Iraq did that despite the fact that the former Sudanese Government did not support the Iraqi position on the Iraq-Iran war. Today you can envisage a situation of possible identity of strategic concepts coupled with an Iraqi desire to cooperate with the present government. Perhaps one of the present government's tasks is to repair the damage inflicted by the former government on relations with the brothers and friends. I can say with conviction that one of the major causes of the people's resentment of the former government was that government's foreign policy and unpatriotic attitudes, such as its attitude to Iraq on the issue of the war. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Majid] If the Sudanese RCC's peace initiative on the South reaches a dead end would you take the military option?

[Shammu] We never believed that the military option could lead to a solution. The brothers in the RCC also think the same way, even though they are soldiers. The political option is the solution. If anyone imagines that there is a military solution, then the war would continue endlessly. A solution must be found. As Arabs, we must consult with our brothers in the Arab countries on the issue of the south ,which is an Arab issue—not only a Sudanese issue. True, it is an internal issue, but in the final analysis it is an Arab issue, and Arab identity is the target.

Spokesman on Opposition, Anti-Corruption Drive

PM1708085789 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Aug 89 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Revolution Command Council Spokesman Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: The Regime Is of No Particular Color and the Opposition Is Just a Few Discordant Voices"]

[Text] Jeddah, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the council's official spokesman, has denied that the regime is of any particular political color. Those who claim that we are affiliated with a certain political circle, he said, should judge our actions and disregard the current controversy.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Col Sulayman said: We have come to serve all the people and we do not represent any particular group.

Asked if there is any opposition to the new regime in Sudan, Col Sulayman said: "There is no opposition. The people and the Army support us. So where would the opposition come from? There are just a few discordant voices, and the day will come when they will comprehend our convictions and policies."

He said the revolution enjoys support at home and abroad "because our aim is to build a strong united Sudan free from partisanship, sectarianism, tribalism, and racism. Thank God, we have been successful in taking the first steps in that direction."

Col Sulayman strongly denied press reports claiming that the party leaders detained in Khartoum have agreed to join in a national dialogue. What has been published in this connection, he said, is completely unfounded.

He said anyone searching for the truth should seek news of Sudan from its original sources, particularly the RCC official spokesman, the cabinet's official spokesman, the SUDANESE NEWS AGENCY, or the country's official newspaper, which is AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH [ARMED FORCES].

He added: "We do not want the press to jeopardize Sudan or its revolution. We want the press to convey the facts without sensationalism."

He also said that the reports published about pensioning off some military personnel are highly exaggerated. He said the revolution has pensioned off 96 officers only for reasons well known to the council. Some military people, he added, were pensioned off at their own request or in accordance with routine retirement procedure applied by the Armed Forces command. As regards the police, he said, about 200 police officers have been pensioned off through an eight-man committee formed some time ago. He said that the revolution found the list of these officers ready, examined it, and then announced the pensioning off. He added that it should be remembered that "the police force had not been purged for 15 years, there was a clear degree of corruption in it, and the police officers who were corrupt admitted their corruption when faced with the facts."

He also emphasized that the civil service purge will include every corrupt person regardless of position. He added: "We have come to serve all Sudan, not to seek power or allow corruption."

He continued: "We have declared since the beginning of the revolution that we have no special privileges and that every military rank in the RCC is equal to the same rank in the Army. For example, the lowest rank in the RCC is that of Major Shams al-Din. Although he is an RCC member, his privileges are exactly the same as any major in any Army unit. Believe me, we in the RCC discipline ourselves strictly every day to the point that we eat nothing more than some beans; we eat what the public eats."

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Updates Developments

PM1708090989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Aug 89 pp 1-2

[Kamal Hamid and Muhammad al-Hashimi report: "Revolution Council Accuses Islamic Front of Corruption"]

[Excerpt] Khartoum, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, official spokesman for the Revolution Command Council [RCC], has launched an attack—the first of its kind since the new regime was established—on the National Islamic Front [NIF], accusing it of participating in corrupting political life during the past democratic stage. He strongly stressed that the circulated rumors about the existence of links between the front and the RCC are untrue, tendentious, and designed to undermine the revolution's march.

In another development [RCC Chairman] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir admitted in a radio interview the existence of contacts with the imprisoned political leaders in their personal capacity, not in their party capacity, with a view to clarifying their "positions regarding bringing them to fair trials, which, alone, will release the innocent and decisively punish those who committed crimes against the people." AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the RCC's Political Committee is holding political contacts with some political and media leaders to agree on a new formula for popular participation in power—a formula different from all the previous political formulas which Sudan has experienced over the past 3 decades.

Meanwhile, an informed Sudanese source who arrived in London from Khartoum the day before yesterday said that the release of the leaders of the major political parties in Khartoum is unlikely in the foreseeable future,

and pointed out that preliminary arrangements are being made to bring them to trial and that these might not finish before the end of the month.

Asked by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT about the conditions in which the detained politicians are being held, he said that they are good, indicating that Sudan has old traditions with regard to respecting detainees and politicians, regardless of their affiliations.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the leaders of the dissolved Sudanese political parties—al-Ummah Party leader Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, Democratic Unionist Party leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani (not at the military hospital in Omdurman), NIF leader Dr Hasan al-Turabi, and Communist Party leader Muhammad Ibrahim Nuqd—are all imprisoned in one section of Kabar Prison and meet together all the time. It has been learned that Dr Hasan al-Turabi leads their daily prayers, but Muhammad Ibrahim Nuqd represents them before the prison administration.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT asked the same source about the truth of the reports about the NIF's link with the recent change of regime; he said that those rumors emerged in the early days of the coup, but it is now clear that the new regime, especially the chairman of the Sudanese RCC, has no political or organizational links with the front's organization, which, like the other parties, was dissolved after the change.

The source said that the RCC has decided to begin by correcting Sudan's foreign relations, which deteriorated greatly in the former era, and that this has begun with Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir's visits to Cairo, Jeddah, and Tripoli. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

President Meets New Fatah Committee Members

JN1508195889 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Tunisian President brother Zine El Abidine Ben Ali reaffirmed his country's position of full support for all the Palestinian options to liberate Palestine. He expressed his hope that the Palestinian people will soon gain a victory through their blessed revolution. This statement was made during a meeting last night between President Ben Ali and the new members of the Fatah Central Committee with the Palestinian president brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and Tunisian Prime Minister brother Hedi Baccouche also attending.

Brother Abu-'Ammar said in a statement after the meeting that during the meeting he briefed the Tunisian president on all the resolutions issued by the fifth Fatah general congress hosted by Tunisia last week.

He added that he informed President Ben Ali of the results of the fourth round of Palestinian-U.S. dialogue held yesterday in Tunis. And he told him about the sharp escalation of the occupation authorities' measures against the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories in an attempt to deal the intifadah [uprising] a blow, especially the conspiracy of starvation and siege which they have imposed on Palestinian camps, villages, and towns.

Joint Committee Reviews Cooperation With Libya

LD1708052489 Tripoli JANA in English 0845 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Tunis, Hannibal [August] 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—In Tunis yesterday the committee assigned the work of following up the implementation of what has been agreed upon at the meetings of the supreme committee for following-up between Great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Tunisia during its meetings held in the city of al-Bayan al-Awal last Nasir [July] month.

Present at the opening session of this committee were the Tunisian premier, Mr Hedi Baccouche, the secretary of the People's Committee for Oil, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Communications and Marine Transport, the secretary of the People's Committee for Strategic Industries, the secretary of the People's Committee for Economy and Foreign Trade, the secretary of the People's Committee for Planning, the secretary assigned the affairs of Arab Maghreb Union, the governor of Libya Central Bank, the ministers of foreign affairs, economy, housing, communications, provisions, finance, transport, planning, the governor of the Central Bank of Tunis, and a number of experts and specialists in both sisterly countries.

During the opening session, the participants took stock of what has been achieved in terms of practical steps on the road of integration and unity between the two sisterly countries in various sectors. At the end of the session, it was agreed to have this committee hold a meeting tomorrow to discuss and survey what has been achieved by the sector committees.

Mr. Hedi Baccouche, in his talk at this session, welcomed members of this committee saying that the aim behind this meeting coming at a recommendation of the supreme follow-up committee in its meeting in the city of al-Bayan al-Awal, Banghazi was the achievement of unity between the two sisterly countries to attain the overall Arab unity. He stressed that the unionist objective was still holding "today and tomorrow until the unity aspired for is achieved."

He called for the necessity of continuing the contacts between the two countries at all levels and conducting a research into the spheres of bilateral cooperation to strengthen the unionist steps.

Concluding his talk, Mr. Baccouche expressed his happiness whenever a meeting was held between Great al-Jamahiriyah and Tunisia stressing that the relations between the two sisterly countries were historical adding that they were able to bring back these relations to the level of history and objectives.

Meanwhile, the secretary of the People's Committee for Oil gave a talk relaying the greetings of the leader of the revolution to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and to the Arab people in sisterly Tunisia.

He stressed in his speech on the important development witnessed by the work of the sector committees for reviewing what has been achieved regarding the previous steps and the reconfirmation of the unionist orientation between the two sisterly countries.

Concluding his speech, he adds that the two sides will act together to achieve whatever is possible for the sake of the paramount objective, namely, the achievement of unity between the two sisterly countries.

Baccouche Outlines Budget Control Measures

LD1208150689 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Mr Hedi Baccouche, the prime minister, held a meeting with representatives of national press yesterday evening at the Casbah government palace. [passage omitted]

The meeting focused on the measures taken by the government following a deep study and wide consultations to (?rationalize) the interventions and expenditure of the subsidy fund. [passage omitted]

He indicated that the expenditure devoted to financing the subsidy fund from the state budget had reached 275 million dinars in 1988. It is expected to reach about 400 million dinars in 1989. It is also expected that the fund's deficit will reach almost 800 million dinars in 1994, should things continue in this manner. [passage omitted]

The prime minister pointed out that the methodology adopted in examining the situation of the fund did not follow the easy way, which resorts to increasing prices whenever there is pressure on the state budget, but to setting up separate schemes related to each subsidized item, so as to reduce the cost of items by simplifying and clarifying the subsidy procedures, and controlling the cost of subsidized goods at the level of public institutions, encouraging national production, and making the price modifications gradually contribute to directing the fund's interventions to the benefit of the poor. [passage omitted]

Bacouche indicated that the government's measures consist in raising the social grant allocated to poor families and handicapped people from 30 to 40 dinars on a quarterly basis, which will represent a total cost of 6 million dinars. They also consist in increasing daily wages of laborers by 200 millimes, with a total cost of 5 million dinars.

He added that the third measure consists of allocating a special grant of 3 dinars per month to minimum-guaranteed-salary earners in agriculture and industry. He pointed out that employers will shoulder the cost of this measure, which totals 7 million dinars, within the framework of the national solidarity effort. [passage omitted]

The prime minister pointed out, in this context, that the preparation of these measures was characterized by the concern to make price increases limited and not excessive. The increases concern four sectors: Wheat and its derivatives, oil, milk, and sugar. [passage omitted]

PDRY

Peace Council Meets With Soviet Committee

EA1108220589 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] The last round of discussions between the Yemeni council for peace, solidarity, and friendship with peoples in our country [as heard], and the Soviet solidarity committee, chaired by Brother Dr 'Abdallah al-Khamiri, member of the Politburo and chairman of the council, and Comrade (Solton), first deputy chairman of the Soviet solidarity committee, was held in Moscow today. Views were exchanged on the Soviet participation in the international symposium dedicated to the security of the Indian Ocean, the Arab Gulf, and the Red Sea, scheduled to be held in Aden at the beginning of next year within the program of the Afro-Asian solidarity organization. The discussions also dealt with the importance of making this region a region of peace, security,and economic cooperation.

The meeting accorded special importance to environmental problems, with the aim of preserving coasts and water outlets in the region. The discussions also covered the reinforcement of the role of the Afro-Asian solidarity organization in the new international circumstances, with the aim of elevating the role of the organization at various levels.

At the end of the discussions, a protocol was signed for bilateral cooperation in all spheres. The meeting was attended by Brother Dr 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Ilah, member of the Central Committee and our ambassador to the Soviet Union.

Qatar

Arab Tripartite Committee Asked To Continue Efforts

JN1608135289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Doha, 16 Aug (WAKH)—The State of Qatar has appealed to all concerned parties in Lebanon to put an irreversible end to their tragedy, which is affecting all the Lebanese and whose harmful consequences affect the entire Arab homeland.

In today's session, chaired by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister, the Qatari Council of Ministers appealed to the higher Arab tripartite committee to continue its efforts to tackle the Lebanese crisis and restore peace and stability in Lebanon to safeguard its unity, Arabism, security, and independence. The Council of Ministers expressed grave concern and deep sadness over the course of events in this Arab country.

Yemen Arab Republic

South Yemeni Minister Arrives for Meetings

JN1608123489 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Brother Salih Abu-Bakr Ibn-Husaynun, deputy prime minister, minister of energy and minerals, and member of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee in the southern part of the homeland, arrived in Sanaa this afternoon heading a delegation to participate in the meetings of the general assembly and the board of directors of the Yemeni Company for Oil and Mineral Investments and the meetings of the board of directors of the Joint Project for Natural Resources, which are due to take place in Sanaa. [passage omitted]

Mauritanian Foreign Minister Ends 3-Day Visit

JN1608131789 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Brother Cheikh Ahmed Ould Baba, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, left Sanaa today after a 3-day visit of our country. During his visit he delivered a message to President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, secretary general of the General People's Congress, from his brother Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, on bilateral relations and the situation in the region following the painful events that occurred recently between Mauritania and Senegal. [passage omitted]

Housing Minister Returns From Cairo ACC Meetings

JN1608183089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Brother Engineer Muhsin 'Ali al-Hamadani, minister of municipalities and housing, returned to Sanaa today after heading our country's delegation to the meetings of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] ministers of housing and construction held in Cairo from 12 to 14 August.

He also visited the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, where he held talks with the brother officials in the Jordanian Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Environment dealing with various fields of cooperation and means of developing them through the initiatives of both sides. [passage omitted]

Suq al-Gharb 'Beginning of End' of Al-Asad

JN1708104989 Baghdad INA in English 0930 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 17, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad has confirmed here today that Suq al-Gharb battle in Lebanon is the beginning of the end of Hafiz al-Asad's regime.

In an article the paper said that the Syrian grave escalation was representing an opportunity for the Lebanese and the Arab nation as a whole to get rid of the cancerous tumour represented by Hafiz al-Asad.

The paper touched on steadfastness of the Lebanese national stand in confronting the Syrian invasion and said the Lebanese national will managed to foil Hafiz al-Asad's attempts to install a president for Lebanon against the Lebanese national will.

It added that when Hafiz al-Asad drove his forces to advance on Suq al-Gharb axis he was proving his political bankruptcy and inability of his old military ways.

AL-THAWRAH concluded that Hafiz al-Asad knew well that his capability of destructive shelling did not mean his ability to occupy a city like Beirut, for before Hafiz al-Asad Sharon attempted with all his troops and weapons to enter Beirut but he failed.

UNIIMOG Commander Leaves for Tehran 16 Aug

JN1608102889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Aug (INA)—Yugoslav General Slavko Jovic, commander of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group [UNIIMOG], left for Tehran today at the end of his visit to Iraq.

The UNIIMOG commander's visit to Iraq is within the framework of his shuttle trips between Baghdad and Tehran to observe the work of UN observers.

He was seen off at the airport by a number of his aides and the officers of the coordination committee with the UN observer group.

Bangladesh President Departs Baghdad 15 Aug

JN1508200689 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Hussain Mohammad Ershad, president of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, left Baghdad this evening at the conclusion of a 2-day visit to Iraq. [passage omitted]

Arab Communists Criticized; 'Crisis' Analyzed

JN1408143489 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 12 Aug 89 p 15

["Analysis of the Week" by Malik Mansur]

[Text] A first reading of events and developments leads one to conclude that remnants of the Arab communist parties are now in an ideological, political, and psychological crisis. They have lost touch with Arab realities and are now paying a debt that has accumulated over the years. Their crisis manifested itself in the visit to Tehran by George Hawi, leader of the Lebanese Communist party, to offer his condolences over the death of Khomeyni and to congratulate the new spiritual guide of the Iranian revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i. He concluded his visit to Tehran by signing an Iranian-prepared political document as if to testify to the failure and bankruptcy of him and his kind as they reach a dead end.

There are those who seek to turn facts around by explaining George Hawi's visit to Tehran and his signing of the Iranian document as nothing more than a political maneuver that can be objectively justified. They argue that whoever is in alliance with Damascus, and is based there, must meet with its allies in Tehran. However, this wretched fallacy cannot hide the historical crisis, the ideological vacuum, disorientation, and disintegration that the communist movement in the Arab world is experiencing. The Damascus-Tehran highway will prove the undoing of these Arab communists.

Whatever the justifications advanced to explain Hawi's visit to Tehran, the trip is one of many indications of the crisis not only in Hawi's party but also of the other Arab communist parties that are are desperately seeking to escape from the dire consequences awaiting them—at which point, these parties will probably find themselves denied any chance of survival, whether in Tehran, Damascus, or anywhere else.

The Arab communist parties' crisis is not something new, nor the outcome of Soviet perestroyka, as some believe. The changes and reassessments wrought under the leadership of Gorbachev and the Soviet leader's internal reforms have lifted the fig leaf behind which the Arab communist parties hid their endemic crises.

Over the past decades, the Arab communist parties have remained directly and officially subservient to the CPSU and the Soviet State under the cover of the principle of communist internationalism, and all their positions, policies, and internal, Arab, and international programs were governed by the Soviet position. As a result, they were harsh in imposing themselves on life and they maintained their subservience at the expense of basic national and pan-Arab interests. Therefore, their political criteria and positions on various issues were defined from a single angle, which was subservience to a foreign country.

Over these years, the Arab communist parties have not participated in the national and pan-Arab causes and concerns. They often found themselves outside the national and pan-Arab consensus or, at best, occupying a narrow space on the sidelines of the latter in some urgent cases, and even then without making the decision themselves to play their peripheral role.

Hence, the historical dilemma of the Arab communist parties started with their establishment and has continued to grow and take a clear-cut formula over the past years. Then it epitomized the failure of these parties to become an influential popular force, although they regurgitated ready-made theories and dictums, raised attractive and exciting slogans, and expended great efforts in the fields of political action and propaganda, with the help of international propaganda.

Therefore, these parties continue to live in the real dilemma represented in their subservience and the resulting policies and positions that conflict with national and pan-Arab interests. This is why they have not registered any tangible national or pan-Arab positions even when they voiced their support for this or that national or pan-Arab cause, despite their long presence in politics, because this support did not stem from genuine belief, but was governed by subservience and its requirements. In other words, the positive element in such positions was limited and quickly returned to its fixed state.

Therefore, Arab communist parties have not made any progress. Because of their special condition and their isolation from the popular movement, these parties have been unable to take a single step forward. Even when they took such a step, they suffered a great setback. This has been the case. Every step forward under urgent circumstances was followed by several steps backward so that the history of these parties has become a series of setbacks, crises, divisions, and internal strife.

But, where did the Arab communist parties' subservience lead to in the end?

This question requires us go back a little to shed light on aspects of the last chapters that made these parties reach the height of their crisis; made them lose, once and for all, the last chance to be linked with national and pan-Arab issues and interests; and which placed them in the position of being condemned by history—not only because of their subservience to a foreign power, with all its burdens and worries, but because of their national treason involving declared and official statements and acts; and because of the treason of public alliance with the enemies of the homeland, people, and nation and with the invaders who covet Iraq's land and wealth and aim to subjugate the people, tear the nation apart, and threaten its pride, glory, and honor.

In order to cover every detail and explain the positions as they are as much as possible, reference must be made first to the events that resulted from the unobjective and emotional positions, with suspect objectives and intentions, which the Iraqi Communist Party [ICP] took against the revolutionary experience of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; and the methods of maneuvers, deceptions, and hypocrisy which the ICP practiced during its membership in the National Progressive and Patriotic Front during the period 1972 to 1978.

Although that party failed for scores of years by its presence in the political arena and although it proved its inability to assume power even under the most favorable circumstances after 14 July 1958, it behaved with the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and its revolutionary authorities in a manner different from that with which it behaved with all other forces and regimes.

Any one who recalls and reviews those documented events will be totally surprised. The ICP behaved in a strange and suspect manner. It began to work behind the scenes, organize secret activities, and use its media organs to damage the revolutionary experience in Iraq to spread lies, falsehoods, and doubts about every step taken and every revolutionary, national, and pan-Arab achievement scored.

The result was that this party became an opposition force against the party that provided it with the opportunity to overcome its past experience and assume a national role by inviting it into the patriotic front, which was established to form the legitimate framework into which all sons of the homeland would pour their energies and resources in the service of the people and revolution.

When the Iranian regime launched its unjust and aggressive war against our country on 4 September 1980, the ICP command had already safely and officially left Iraq, to which there was no objection once it had made its decision. It resided abroad and lived on leftovers and foreign aid while awaiting the impossible opportunity.

What was the ICP's position on the Iranian aggression against Iraq?

Before the war, that party flirted with the new Khomeyni regime and talked about the Iranian experience as representing new forces that would tip the balance in the region. By so doing, it was trying to encourage Iran's rulers against Iraq on the one hand, and open channels of contact, cooperation, and alliance with itself, on the other.

When the war broke out and Iraq scored an early military and political victory and crushed aggression, the ICP sided with the Iranian enemy in both analysis and opinion. It presented formulas that had the smell of national treason and expressed solidarity with the Iranian regime. It held Iraq responsible for the outbreak of the war and displayed good intentions toward Iran.

With such a beginning, the ICP slipped into a stinking quagmire. Motivated by its rancor and distorted ideological and political structure, it chose to ally itself with our country's enemies first in words and then in despicable treasonous deeds. It brandished its weapons under the protection of the Iranian invaders to stab our national Armed Forces in the back. It had thus turned into an instrument that is ordered about by the Iranian rulers and the nation's traitors in Damascus.

During our country's difficult and critical stages and under the circumstances of the exacerbating aggression and the invaders' occupation of parts of our national soil during the protracted war, the ICP was searching for a role, a share, and a position for itself. Its primary concern was to get out of its dilemma and historical downfall even if that meant coexistence and alliance with the Iranian invaders.

During the 8 years of aggression against Iraq, the ICP was careful to play the dirtiest treasonous role possible and inflict the severest possible harm on the country while standing firmly in the trench of external enemies. This is a fact known by every honorable citizen in Iraq and by the Arab nation.

This situation was exacerbated by the fact that the Arab communist parties, despite partial contradictions in their stands toward the criminal Iranian aggression against Iraq, continued in one way or another to support the ridiculous and treasonous stands of the ICP. By such stands, they gave an example of the depth of their historical dilemma and their total inability to interact and have genuine links with the nation's causes.

Here we must ask the following logical question: Was the road of treason the only option left for the ICP or were there other available options which it deliberately ignored and selected what it desired?

First of all, we must state a fact. History and nations' experiences have unequivocally proved that individuals, groups, parties, and bodies that are different, contradictory, or even conflicting with one another for any reason will soon willingly discard all their differences and contradictions no matter how profound they are when a danger threatens the homeland and the supreme interest. It is the danger of foreign invasion. Such a situation will mobilize all national elements and structures that are firmly entrenched in hearts, minds, and consciences. Defense of the homeland will then become the fateful issue that rises above any other consideration.

This is a fact everybody knows by instinct and any human being with a minimal sense of honor will not accept to be less than patriotic. Neither will any honorable person accept for himself to side other than with the national will and be other than loyal to the homeland. This is exactly what the people of Iraq have done and the principle whereby they scored their great victory. The communist party has deviated from this line and has deliberately chosen the path of betraying the homeland. Having forfeited their national credentials, the communists have become outcasts and made themselves a shameful example and have thus been condemned to the dark pages of histroy.

Iraq has succeeded in its defensive nationalist battle and the road is now wide open before Iraq's revolutionary experience to development and prosperity. The great leader President Saddam Husayn's genius has proved a wellspring of inspiration for the public energies of the people. President Saddam has rallied the nation behind him on the road of reconstruction and development. The great leader is carrying the people behind him in a drive to develop a new style of open minded aproach to life. The new approach incorporates political and party pluralism and enriches the democratic traditions in society. It is now important that things be put in perspective so that no one will imagine that the end of the war may open the door to those who have betrayed and turned their backs on the homeland when it most needed them.

If we are now living in an atmosphere of democracy and preparing to expand pluralism, it is only proper that we express our highest regard for the paradigms of patriotic action—the martyrs who gave their lives for the homeland, the people, and the nation. It is equally fitting that we salute the faithful men who took up arms and made our triumph possible and whoever did not spare themselves. Our highest respect is also owed to whoever involved themselves in any manner in the war [against Iran] and wished success for Iraq in its battle. We are no less indebted to those who spoke out on behalf of the homeland and those from outside the border who acted according to the dictates of their national conscience.

As for those who placed themselves in the trench of the enemy and acted treacherously and whose betrayal was borne out by word and deed—those who stabbed the Iraqi fighters in the back and trivialized Iraqi blood, whatever the fronts they hid behind, we say that they have lost and have no place amongst us any more.

Their historical defeat means the collapse of the unpatriotic and un-Arab line as well as the definitive retreat of any form of vassalage. Those who may repent and mend their ways have a place in the homeland.

Arens Comments on Syrian Actions in Lebanon

TA1608173289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens takes a serious view of the world's silence at what is happening in Lebanon. The minister said that this silence may become hazardous for Israel some day, adding that this muteness is the most dangerous red line. Our correspondent Nati Zilberman met Minister Arens, who was visiting Tiberias today:

[Begin recording] [Zilberman] The incidents currently taking place in Lebanon may turn into a dangerous precedent for the entire world, and the world's indulgence toward what is happening there could further inflame the Lebanese conflagration.

This was the tone taken today by Minister Arens regarding the international community's mute reaction to the ongoing bloodbath in the Lebanese capital. Arens explained that in the future, Iraq may commit the same violence against Israel that Syria is currently perpetrating on Lebanon, and that the world's silence is the most dangerous red line as far as Israel is concerned.

[Arens] First of all, this is a sweeping human tragedy. It constitutes a precedent, one which could lead to others that may also have an influence on us one day. The Iraqis have used chemical weapons; now the Syrians are indiscriminately bombarding civilian population centers. Who knows what else may come to pass in the Middle East? It is also a test for the international bodies, and a precedent might be set here, too—that in the future all the various dictators in the world will think they are free to do whatever comes into their mind. Therefore, this constitutes a danger to the entire world, including Israel.

The red lines here are human lives, and the Syrians have already crossed all possible red lines.

[Zilberman] Arens also addressed the invitation extended by Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas to Yasir 'Arafat's organization to launch attacks against Israel from Syria. Arens said that he is not surprised.

[Arens] Syria is an enemy of the State of Israel, one which declares itself to be in a state of war with Israel. It announces its intention to achieve strategic parity with Israel. Therefore, any hostile action on Syria's part does not surprise us.

[Zilberman] And on the negotiations for a prisoner exchange, Minister Arens asserts that nothing has changed, except for the fact that now we have a clear addressee.

[Arens] There has been no progress at this stage, and I think that we must assume from experience that it will take a long time. But we have taken one big step forward, because following the capture of Shaykh 'Ubayd, Israel, and the entire world, clearly knows it has an address to contact, and also threaten if necessary. It is clear today that Iran and Syria have great influence, perhaps even control over the Hizballah. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry Calls For 'Decisive' UN Action

TA1608113289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Israel regrets that the UN Security Council did not mention Syria by name in its reaction to the fighting in Lebanon. The Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem told our political correspondent Arye Golan that the tragic situation in Lebanon calls for more decisive action by the Security Council. He pointed out that the United Nations and the civilized world must act. He stressed that Israel views with great concern the increase in Syrian aggression, which is causing many casualties and suffering to the inhabitants of Lebanon. He said the international community must make it clear to Syria that such cruelty against innocent civilians is unbearable.

Minister Shim'on Peres said Israel must take all the measures at its disposal to prevent Syria from running amok in Lebanon, but pointed out that Israel withdrew from Lebanon with the intention of never returning there.

On another issue, Peres said we must take all the necessary measures to bring about a cessation of the intifadah [uprising]. Minister Peres made the remarks during a visit to the Civil Administration officials wounded in the firebomb attack in Ramallah.

Peres Urges Patience on Intervention in Lebanon

TA1608151589 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1400 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, by Gid'on Reicher—live]

[Excerpt] [Reicher] Good day, Mr Peres.

[Peres] A very good day to you, too.

[Reicher] What else must happen in Lebanon—our close neighbor, where events mean so much to us—for us to intervene again?

[Peres] I do not understand why we should be so impatient with our intervention. Basically, I believe Lebanon nowadays is a problem for the Lebanese and for the international community. Making the events in Lebanon an Israeli problem would be a mistake on our part.

[Reicher] We have alerted the entire world, and we are sensitive to the death of people—particularly when they are our neighbors. Why then should we not take action?

[Peres] The question is whether our alert has succeeded. Naturally, we must voice our opinion of the Syrian rampage in Lebanon, and I believe we should also make

known our high regard for the Lebanese fighters. What we should abstain from doing is turning the events in Lebanon into an Israeli problem. Israel did not leave Lebanon with the intention of returning.

[Reicher] We used to have red lines with respect to Lebanon. Do these red lines still exist? Perhaps Israel should say: This far, and no more.

[Peres] We do have red lines, such as the security zone we maintain. By the way, I do not believe we have witnessed the bottom line in this affair. The Syrians will yet get to feel the disintegration of Lebanon, which will stick like a bone in their throat. You know, an army can conquer a part of a city, or an entire one, but the question is whether it can control it. Lebanon has been proven an uncontrollable place.

[Reicher] As we know better than anyone else.

[Peres] Precisely—and let us not forget it. This time, however, the world is taking action: It is convening the UN Security Council and making quite courageous statements. This is a test of the international community's responsibility.

[Reicher] But we are neighbors and we are concerned, because the Syrians are acting as if Lebanon were their own backyard. Perhaps they know that we do not wish to be burned again in the Lebanese bonfire, and this knowledge allows them to do whatever they please.

[Peres] Yes, we do not intervene in inter-Arab conflicts. We did say that there is basis for concern only when direct Israeli interests are harmed.

[Reicher] When is that? What interest must be harmed?

[Peres] I hope it will not happen. I do not see why we should be so impatient.

[Reicher] The Syrians may be listening to this interview. They will want to know at what point we are going to tell them: No more.

[Peres] I did not know that was the goal of this interview. In any event, I do not propose to give them a date. I would say that so far, the Lebanese have defended themselves heroically. It so happens that the three Arab leaders appointed to deal with the situation accused Syria. I would not provide Syria with an Israeli pretext or create a situation in which Syria would emerge as the new hero, being able to say: Israel is threatening us, let us unite against Israel. In the meantime, Syria is killing Arabs; it is killing civilians; it is harming women and children in broad daylight, with shells, cannons, and tanks. The Arab world opposes this conduct, as does the rest of the world. Why should Israel enter the picture?

[Reicher] We did it once, when Begin sent helicopters to down Syrian helicopters.

[Peres] And we paid a very heavy price. The fact that we made one mistake does not mean we should do it again. What would be the logic of it? [passage omitted]

Rabin Cited on 'Terrorist' Attacks From Syria

TA1708080189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] During a tour of northern Israel today, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin warned Syria not to allow terrorists to conduct activities against Israel from its territory. The defense minister added that Israel's red lines in everything pertaining to developments in Lebanon are very well known both in Lebanon and in Syria. Our military correspondent 'Amos Har'el reports on the defense minister's remarks:

[Begin Rabin recording] I cannot conceive of the Syrians allowing terrorist activities against Israel of any kind or type whatsoever to be launched from their territory against our joint borderline on the Golan Heights. That would be a serious violation of the disengagement agreement, and the Syrians know what our reaction would be. Therefore, I would suggest that we do not take the statements made to that effect seriously.

The main consideration underlying our current policy toward Lebanon is first and foremost Israel's security—in other words, that Lebanese territory not be used to launch attacks against Israel, either on land, by sea, or in the air. In addition to that, we have other needs related to Israel's security, as well as various limits which I will not specify but which I assume are very well known both in Lebanon and in Syria. [end recording]

Shamir Vows To Fight Syrian Aid to PLO

TA1608173889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir said that if Syria's suggestion that the PLO launch attacks against Israel from inside Syrian territory is implemented, Israel will do everything in its power to fight it. Our correspondent Rafi Shalhin reports that Shamir was speaking at the opening ceremony of the World Congress for Jewish Studies. Shamir added that Israel continues to monitor developments in Lebanon, but it is a known fact that Israel's defense establishment is incapable of resolving the crisis there.

'Nearly' 10 Percent of Work Force Unemployed

TA1708082689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Aug 89 p 1

[Report by labor correspondent Jeff Black]

[Excerpt] Unemployment in Netivot and Or 'Aqiva has reached a staggering 21 percent, the worst in the country, according to Employment Service figures for July released yesterday.

The figures showed that 43 settlements were declared "unemployment blackspots," compared with 31 in June. In all, nearly 10 percent of the work force is now without jobs, according to separate figures released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics [CBS].

The preliminary CBS figures for April-June showed that 9.5 percent of the work force, approximately 150,000 people, was out of work over this period in seasonally-adjusted terms. This represented a 1.2 percentage point jump compared with the first three months of the year and a surge of 3.5 percentage points from April-June 1988's 6 percent figure.

Women were the worst hit by this increase, suffering an unemployment rate of 11.4 percent in the second quarter compared to a male unemployment rate of 8.2 percent.

Unemployment during the 1966-7 recession reached a record 10.4 percent.

Aside from the general recession in the economy, the present rise in joblessness over the last year stems in large part from a sudden increase in the number of people joining the labor force. From a net annual growth of approximately 22,000-25,000 between 1985-87, the number more than doubled to 59,000 last year; and a similar net growth is due to the baby boom immediately after the 1967 war.

The Employment Service figures. meanwhile, showed that the job situation was getting tighter each month. As reported in THE JERUSALEM POST earlier this week, the number of jobseekers rose 10 percent to 85,200 people in July. But the service had only 18,500 jobs to offer, of which 14,000 were snapped up by Israelis and 900 by West Bank and Gaza Strip Arabs. [passage omitted]

Gush Emunim To Set Up Jerusalem 'Jewish Guard'
TA1708102689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Gush Emunim has decided to set up a Jewish guard in Jerusalem and its environs to prevent Arabs from vandalizing Jewish property. The decision was made last night in the wake of this week's incidents in which cars were set on fire and Jewish property was damaged in the western part of the city. This has been learned by our correspondent Moti Amir. Volunteers from the Jerusalem area will join a body called Hashomer [The Guard] and will ambush Arabs vandalizing Jewish property at night. The volunteers intend to apprehend the Arabs and turn them over to the police.

Temporary West Bank Settlement Becomes Permanent
TA1608182189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Excerpt] The settlement of Yizhar, near Nabulus, was dedicated this afternoon, on the day of its 5th anniversary. Miriam Herschlag was there:

The 18 families, and one dozen yeshiva students of Yizhar, today laid the cornerstone for their permanent housing. Yizhar settlers have lived in temporary accommodations for 5 years.

The small settlement sits on a hilltop with a view in every direction of the Samarian hills. Settlement leaders say 20 new houses will be built, and that new families are waiting to move into the existing structure.

At the cornerstone-laying ceremony, Knesset Member Rehav'am Ze'evi of Moledet was the only government official in attendance. [passage omitted]

AL-FAJR Sports Editor Arrested in Jerusalem
TA1708083089 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Aug 89 p 12

[Report by Tzvi Singer and Roni Shaqed]

[Text] Samir Abu-Jundi, the AL-FAJR sports editor, was arrested by the police yesterday, apparently on suspicion of being the liaison between activists in the Unified National Command of the Uprising in East Jerusalem and in Gaza.

Detectives of the Jerusalem Police Minority Division, accompanied by border policemen, appeared at AL-FAJR's East Jerusalem offices close to midnight on Tuesday. They checked the workers' identification cards and asked all those present to identify themselves.

Soon afterward, a Border Police barrier at the entrance to Abu-Dis stopped an AL-FAJR van. Policemen, who were searching for Samir Abu-Jundi, a Gaza resident who rents an apartment in Abu-Dis 3 days a week, held up the newspaper employees until very late into the night.

In the end, when they did not find Abu-Jundi, they left him a summons to appear for questioning on Wednesday at the Jerusalem Police Minority Division office.

Samir Abu-Jundi turned up at the police station yesterday, accompanied by Attorney Ibrahim Abu-'Ata, and was arrested after being interrogated.

Palestine Bank Permitted To Reopen Branch
TA1708100889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Aug 89 p 8

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Text] The Palestine Bank, the only local bank in the Gaza Strip, will reopen its Khan Yunus branch next month, after a 22-year closure, bank Director-General Hashim told THE JERUSALEM POST.

An agreement to reopen the branch was signed yesterday in Jerusalem by the Palestine Bank, the Bank of Israel and the Strip's Civil Administration authorities.

Founded in 1960, the bank was closed after the occupation in 1967. In 1981, it was allowed to reopen its central office in Gaza town. Since then, al-Shawwa has been negotiating with the military authorities to reopen other branches. Yesterday's agreement followed an appeal by the bank to the High Court of Justice.

The new agreement also allows the Palestine Bank to deal in foreign currency.

Al-Shawwa's requests to open other branches in Jabalyah, Nabulus and Ramallah have not been answered by the military authorities. "It's our natural right to have more branches, including the West Bank," Al-Shawwa said.

The Palestine Bank is now the only bank working inside the Gaza Strip because all Israeli banks have closed their Gaza branches as a result of the intifadah [uprising].

Islamic Jihad Claims Attack on Ramallah Patrol

JN1608105789 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1020 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Muhammad is the apostle of God; and those who are with him are strong against unbelievers, but compassionate among each other. [Koranic verse]

Using hand grenades, the Khalid Ibn-al-Walid group attacked a Zionist patrol belonging to the inteliigence organ in Ramallah on Monday morning, 14 August 1989. Our strugglers returned safely to base with God's assistance.

The enemy admitted that four of its soldiers were wounded. It is a revolution and a jihad for the sake of God until victory or martyrdom.

[Signed] The Islamic Jihad Movement for the Liberation of Palestine

Armed 'Terrorist' Killed in West Bank Clash

TA1708042189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] A terrorist armed with an Uzi submachinegun was shot dead last night near the village of Idnah in the Hebron District. Our forces did not sustain any casualties. An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit called on the terrorist to halt, but when he tried to escape and open fire at the soldiers he was shot dead.

The IDF spokesman announced that the terrorist was Shahadi Darwish, an inhabitant of Bayt Jala. He had been sought by the security forces after he escaped from Hebron Prison 4 months ago. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the terrorist had been under arrest on suspicion of having perpetrated several terrorist attacks, including the murder of a local policeman 2 years ago in Bayt Jala.

6 Arabs Wounded in Clashes With IDF 16 Aug

TA1608174989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Four residents of the 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus were wounded this afternoon by army fire during clashes. Arab sources put the casualty figure much higher.

The army is investigating reports that two residents of Khan Yunus in the Gaza Strip were wounded during a clash with soldiers today.

On the Shu'fat road in north Jerusalem, stones were thrown this evening at a No 41 bus. One of the passengers was slightly wounded and was treated on the spot. A number of the bus' windows were smashed. Police and the Border Police combed the area.

In Jerusalem's Musrara neighborhood, three cars were set alight this afternoon. A Voice of Israel reporter says one of them was completely gutted, and the other two badly damaged. Police are investigating the possibility of arson. Jerusalem Police Commander Arye Bibi says nationalistic motives are suspected.

Three firebombs were thrown at a building site in Hebron, where homes for Jews are being constructed. No one was injured and no damage was caused. The army has opened an investigation.

Qiryat Arba' resident Rami Seid was detained by security forces today on suspicion of being active in the Sicarii organization. Seid has connections with the Kakh Movement.

Two Jewish settlers from Hebron were injured when their car overturned near the Arab town of Halhul. The two, who received medical attention on the spot, said the driver lost control of the car when it was pelted with stones. Hebron residents report that stones were also thrown at Israeli cars in the center of the city today.

Further on 16 Aug Incidents

TA1608202389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Seven residents of the 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus were wounded this evening by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire during disturbances. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that among the casualties is a 15-year-old who sustained severe head wounds and was hospitalized in Ramallah.

Two local residents were shot and wounded by army troops during riots that took place in the Jabalyah refugee camp and near the Bayt Lahiyah intersection. Gaza sources report a much higher number of casualties.

The chief of staff and the commander of the Southern Command toured the Gaza Strip today.

The Civil Administration closed a UN Relief and Works Agency school in the village of Dura, south of Hebron, due to disturbances. This is the second school ordered closed this week for the same reason. The first was in the al-Jalazun refugee camp.

Strikes Observed

TA1608114789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Today is the 2d day of the general strike in the territories. The locals are threatening another week-long strike next week. Here is an update from Gaza by our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv:

[Begin recording] The general strike declared in the Gaza Strip by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists yesterday also continued today, with the prodding of local organizations. The strike was called in protest of the magnetic cards distributed to Gaza Strip residents, without which they cannot travel into Israel for work. The streets in the Gaza Strip cities are quiet due to the general strike, and there is very little movement of vehicles traveling into Israel for work.

According to leaflets disseminated this morning, an extended strike is expected to take place beginning early next week as well. Approximately 1,000 people who have requested magnetic entry cards into Israel have been waiting since the morning hours for receipt of these cards at Erez checkpoint. It has been reported that the distribution of these cards will continue at a similar pace in the next few days too.

The curfew in three Rafah neighborhoods continues, while quiet prevails in the other places. [end recording]

So much for Gaza today. Reporting on events in Judaea and Samaria today, our correspondent 'Ido Shargil:

[Begin recording] The Unified National Command of the Uprising's leaflet No 44 called for a general strike today. As a result, today there is a general strike in the West Bank, with the exception of the schools, where studies were mostly conducted normally. Masked individuals tried to incite students in various places to engage in disturbances, but all in all no outstanding events were reported. The new leaflet also called on laborers from Judaea and Samaria to stay away from work in Israel for 1 week, beginning next week, to protest the policy of issuing magnetic plastic cards to Gaza Strip laborers. Individuals lacking these cards will be denied entry into Israel. The leaflet also warned the inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria against taking the jobs of Gaza employees who are denied entry into Israel.

Falastin al-Quds Street in Ramallah, the site of the incident in which a firebomb was hurled at Civil Administration workers 2 days ago, is still under curfew. The town of Qabatiyah near Janin and the al-Fari'ah refugee camp near Nabulus are still subject to curfew. [end recording]

UN Support for Arab Efforts in Lebanon Welcomed

JN1708090689 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
17 Aug 89 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "A Crisis Open to Different Possibilities"]

[Text] The call, which was issued by the UN Security Council, for an immediate cease-fire in Lebanon constitutes an important development in the course of the Lebanese crisis. Indeed, the call points to increasing international concern over the developments of the crisis, which have recently reached unprecedented levels of violence, shelling, killing, and destruction.

The convening of the UN Security Council at the request of the UN secretary general constitutes another opportunity for the Arab countries to exploit international efforts to contain the escalating crisis. Moreover, the call for a cease-fire linked to supporting the efforts of the tripartite Arab committee will keep Lebanon's file, if only for a while, in the hands of the Arab League.

Thus, we view the support by the UN Security Council for the efforts of the tripartite Arab committee as important evidence of the central role played by this committee whose good offices are indispensable, whether from the viewpoint of the Lebanese people, the Arab League, or even the United Nations, if Lebanon is to recover from its longstanding ordeal and achieve national salvation.

Likewise, the joint call, which was issued by the foreign ministers of the tripartite committee alongside the UN call for an immediate cease-fire in Lebanon, is further evidence that the committee, which previously announced a freeze in its efforts, is now on the verge of renewing its mission as has been requested by all the concerned parties.

Lebanon today is facing a new historic test. If the concerned parties ignore the call by the UN Security Council and the statement by the foreign ministers of the tripartite Arab committee, the crisis, which has reached maximum levels of bloodshed, may open the road to non-diplomatic interference in this conflict, thereby serving nobody's interest and exposing international security and peace in this region to extreme danger, which goes beyond Lebanon's borders.

Daily on Upcoming Arab-Japanese Economic Dialogue

JN1508150689 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
14 Aug 89 pp 1, 13

[By Nayif al-Ma'ani]

[Text] A SAWT AL-SHA'B correspondent has learned from high ranking economic sources that Amman will be a venue for the Arab-Japanese econonmic dialogue to be held under the patronage and with the participation of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan.

The dialogue aims to promote economic cooperation between the Arabs and the Japanese; transfer Japanese technology to develop Arab industry; and establish Arab industries for advanced electrical and electronic equipment—especially car assembly lines—in the Arab countries, based on Japanese expertise and technology and Arab manpower and capital.

The sources explained that choosing Amman as a venue for the dialogue to establish joint Arab-Japanese industries is the first of its kind. The dialogue will take place in Jordan because of the confidence that both the Arabs and Japanese have in Jordan, and because of Jordan's political stability, the dynamism of Jordan's economy, and Jordan's ability to overcome obstacles in its path. They pointed out that economic experts in Japan and the Arab countries see in His Majesty King Husayn, with his long political experience and his flexible mentality that is open to everything new and useful, a real guarantee for starting and continuing a comprehensive and expanded economic dialogue.

The sources added that the Jordanian economic move, which is being led by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and is being implemented in direct contacts and meaningful dialogue with the advanced industrial and scientific centers, especially the United States, Japan, and Canada, proves that his highness the crown prince is the right person qualified to organize such an expanded and comprehensive dialogue.

On another level, the SAWT AL-SHA'B correspondent has learned that Jordanian-Japanese round table negotiations will be held on the sidelines of this dialogue to attract Japanese investments to Jordan and to establish joint Japanese-financed projects: a car assembly line and a number of printing houses and paper industries in the free zones in Al-Zarqa and Al-'Aqabah. These projects will cost $500 million.

The Jordanian-Japanese round table negotiations will also cover the issue of the $300 million loan that Japan has agreed to extend to Jordan as well as defining the purposes and projects for which the loan will be invested.

Arab-Japanese contacts are underway to set a date for the dialogue, which is expected to take place within 2 months. The dialogue will be attended by economic experts, industrialists, and businessmen from the United Arab Emirates, the State of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iraq, Yemen, Oman, Qatar, Sudan, and Jordan, and their counterparts from Japan.

Embassies To Close, Envoys Retire To Cut Costs

JN1708083589 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
16 Aug 89 p 1

[Text] AL-RA'Y has learned that a number of ambassadors from the Foreign Ministry are to be pensioned off and a number of diplomats from the diplomatic corps transferred to other ministries and governmental departments.

This is in harmony with the government's trend to limit expenditure. A number of embassies abroad will also be closed.

Retiring Envoys, Ministers Named

JN1708083689 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 17 Aug 89 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y has learned that during its recent session, the Council of Ministers decided to pension off a number of ambassadors, counselors, and ministers plenipotentiary from the Foreign Ministry effective 15 August 1989.

The following were included in this decision:

Ministers: Wa'il al-Masri, Khalid al-Kayid, Faysal al-Humud, Mazin al-Nashashibi, and Hisham al-Shawwa (on call).

Counsellors: Hani Qatami, 'Isa Dabbah, and Walid al-Ramahi.

Ministers plenipotentiary: Nuha al-Nabulsi and 'Adli al-Nasir.

Al-Masri on Moscow Visit, Parliament Candidacy

JN1608182689 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Tahir al-Masri, Jordanian deputy prime minister and minister of state for economic affairs, has told our radio that Jordan and the USSR have reached an agreement in principle on the Jordanian debts to the USSR due in 1989 and 1990, which amount to $190 million. Al-Masri, who returned from a visit to the USSR yesterday, said that the talks that he held there will be resumed in Moscow next September to reach a final agreement similar to Jordan's agreement with its Paris Club creditors last month.

Al-Masri noted that Jordan hopes to have part of its debts to the USSR rescheduled over a 12-year period with a 6-year grace period. He noted that it was agreed that Jordan will repay part of its debts by exporting Jordanian commodities such as phosphate and potash.

On another level, the deputy prime minister disclosed that he will resign from the government within the next few days, 1 and ½ months before the time at which he should resign to run for parliamentary elections, which is 40 days before the election scheduled for 8 November.

Al-Masri said his early resignation is due to his desire to leave his official post in order to be able to present his election program and express his ideas on the next phase in a more objective manner.

King Receives Mauritanian Minister, U.S. Senator

JN1308120389 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn this afternoon received at the Royal Hashemite Court Cheikh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba, Mauritanian foreign minister, who conveyed to his majesty a written message from Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya.

His Majesty King Husayn this afternoon also received at the Royal Hashemite Court U.S. Senator Peter Domenici. The meeting was attended by the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Prime Minister Meets With U.S. Senator

JN1308120689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] Amman—His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir, the prime minister, this afternoon received at his office in the Prime Ministry U.S. Senator Peter Domenici. Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, minister of state for Cabinet affairs, attended.

During the meeting, they reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East question as well as economic and financial relations between Jordan and the United States and ways to develop them. The meeting was attended by the U.S. ambassador in Amman and the delegation accompanying the U.S. senator.

Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received the U.S. senator at his office today.

Mauritanian Foreign Minister Meets Al-Qasim

JN1308172089 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] Amman, 13 Aug (PETRA)—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received at his office this morning Cheikh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba, Mauritanian foreign minister. During the meeting, they reviewed the brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries and current Arab issues.

Departs Amman 13 Aug

JN1308203889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Amman—Mauritanian Foreign Minister Cheikh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba left Amman this evening after a 2-day visit to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn and delivered to him a message from His Excellency Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya. [passage omitted]

King's Adviser Leaves for Morocco With Message

JN1208122289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] Amman—'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, political adviser to his majesty the king, left Amman this morning for the Kingdom of Morocco on a visit during which he will deliver a written message from His Majesty King Husayn to his brother His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco. The message deals with the close and fraternal cooperation between the two sisterly countries and current Arab developments.

Libyan Health Secretary Leads Delegation on Visit

Arrives in Amman 10 Aug

JN1008170089 Amman Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Libyan Health Minister Dr Mustafa al-Zaydi arrived in Amman today leading a high level delegation on a 4-day visit to Jordan.

In a statement upon arrival, the Libyan health minister said the aim of his visit is to promote cooperation in the field of health between Libya and Jordan. He said his visit would materialize into positive results as far as relations between the two countries were concerned.

Received by Prime Minister

JN1308120689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] Amman—His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir, the prime minister, this morning received at his office at the Prime Ministry Dr Musatafa al-Zaydi, secretary of the General People's Committee for Health in the Libyan Jamahiriyah. Health Minister Zuhayr Malhas attended.

During the meeting, they discussed relations between Jordan and Libya and means to develop them in all fields, particularly in the health field.

During the meeting, Dr al-Zaydi expressed admiration for the high level of the medical services and manufacturing of medicines in Jordan.

His excellency the prime minister underlined Jordan's welcome of broadening the horizons of cooperation with sisterly Libya in the medical and health fields and with all other sisterly Arab states because this achieves integration that will benefit the Arab nation.

Signs Pharmaceutical Agreement

JN1408064589 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Aug 89 p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—Libyan Minister of Health Mustafa al-Zaydi Sunday wound up a four-day visit to Jordan and left for home.

During the visit, the minister signed a health agreement paving the way for Jordan and Libya to cooperate in the pharmaceutical industry and for Libya to benefit from Jordan's expertise in pharmaceutical industries and the production of vaccines.

Under the agreement signed by Al-Zaydi and his Jordanian counterpart Zuhayr Malhas, the two countries will give each other priority in registering and marketing medicine produced by either one.

The Libyan minister and his delegation toured a number of medical institutions and pharmaceutical industries in Jordan and discussed cooperation in the exchange of products and marketing matters.

In a statement before departure, Zaydi described his visit as positive and noted that the bilateral agreement would open the way for a greater measure of cooperation not only in pharmaceuticals but also in operating hospitals and health centres, and offering Libyans the chance to train in Jordanian medical institutions.

Zaydi said that the two sides have agreed on joint production of vaccines and in providing one another with technical assistance in health-related fields.

Before leaving, the Libyan minister called on Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir and reviewed with him the bilateral agreement.

Al-Sharif Zayd for his part, said that Jordan welcomed any steps that would open the way for cooperation with Libya in medical and health fields.

Makes Statement, Leaves Amman

JN1308155089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] Dr Mustafa al-Zaydi, secretary of the General People's Committee for Health in the Libyan Jamahiriyah, left Amman today at the end of a 4-day visit to Jordan.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Dr al-Zaydi said that the results of this visit are positive, and that it was agreed to exploit technical services in both countries through a program for exchanging expertise and cooperation between medical institutions.

AFP: Group Threatens King Husayn, 'Arafat

NC1608194189 Paris AFP in English 1900 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Beirut, Aug 16 (AFP)—An underground group that claimed responsibility for bombings in Saudi Arabia last month issued death threats here Wednesday against King Husayn of Jordan and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat.

The body, calling itself Generation of Arab Anger, said in a statement received by a Western news agency that it would assassinate the two as part of a campaign against "agents and traitors in the Arab region."

It accused King Husayn of being "an agent of Israel."

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman was a reactionary and advocate of capitulation, the group charged, saying Mr. 'Arafat was working for formal Arab recognition of the "Zionist enemy," Israel.

It also warned the Saudi royal family to "review its calculations if it does not want to suffer the same punishment" as King Husayn and Mr. 'Arafat.

The same organization claimed responsibility for a series of explosions in July during the Muslim pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca, in Saudi Arabia, that left one dead and 16 wounded.

The communique Wednesday was accompanied by a plan giving details of where and how the explosives were placed as well as the camouflage used in those incidents. "This is proof of the truth of our claim and the precision of our actions," it said.

Further on Threats

NC1708073989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] In a statement in Arabic received by a foreign news agency in Beirut, the Generation of Arab Anger organization announced its decision to liquidate Jordan's ruler and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, messenger of apostasy and advocate of relinquishment and surrender, both of whom adopted the call for the need for Arab recognition of the Zionist enemy. The statement said that this decision is part of the organization's pursuit of agents and traitors in the region. The statement also said that the Al Sa'ud ruling family in Hejaz should review its calculations or else they will receive the same punishment as that to be meted out to these agents.

Further on 'Awn's Acceptance of Cease-Fire Call

NC1608175989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has welcomed the UN Security Council's appeal for a cease-fire, for lifting the blockade, and for solving the Lebanese crisis with the help of the tripartite Arab committee. Gen 'Awn hoped that this international and Arab cooperation at the highest level would appropriately lead to the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon and the establishment of a suitable atmosphere for a meeting among the Lebanese to solve their internal problems without outside pressures.

The prime minister thanked the international community for assuming responsibility for the Lebanese crisis and for supporting the higher Arab committee. He urged the Arab committee to utilize this support and resume its efforts to achieve an urgent and just solution to the Lebanese problem.

In a statement to AFP, 'Awn said that he unconditionally accepts the UN Security Council's appeal for a cease-fire in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Gen 'Awn said that he is ready to go to the United Nations to negotiate with Syria over the withdrawal of its forces from Lebanon. He added: In fact, I invited the Syrians to come to the Presidential Palace in B'abda for negotiations over the withdrawal of their forces.

Asked whether the Army will abide by the cease-fire even if it comes under Syrian artillery fire, Prime Minister 'Awn said that this is out of the question. His soldiers, he said, are not in need of an order from him in order to defend themselves. This, 'Awn added, is our legitimate right.

Birri on Cease-Fire Appeal

NC1708074789 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Minister and Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has stated that the Lebanese nationalist forces are prepared to cease fire provided an inter-Lebanese security committee is formed to observe ships and prevent arms shipments from reaching General 'Awn.

In a statement to AFP in Damascus, Birri said: We expect the UN Security Council to impose on Israel the implementation of Resolution 425 which calls for Israel's unconditional withdrawal from south Lebanon as only this will constitute a proof of the UN's interest in our country.

National Front on Cease-Fire

NC1708082589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] The Lebanese National Front has declared that it will accept the UN Security Council's appeal for a cease-fire provided arms shipments to General 'Awn are ended. The Front emphasized that it will commit itself to a cease-fire provided a Lebanese security committee is formed to observe the ports and prevent delivery of weapons. It said that it will not accept any attempt to have ships bring arms to General 'Awn.

Statement Issued on Ports

NC1708103689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Guarded calm is prevailing on the confrontation lines in the capital, the Suburb, and the Mountain. However, three shells were fired at the military beach area in West Beirut at dawn today.

Meanwhile, the operations center of the Lebanese National Front has issued the following statement:

1. The front has emphasized its constant eagerness to staunch the blood which Michel 'Awn has been shedding in his destructive war. On this basis, the Front had earlier declared its commitment to cease fire in accordance with the Casablanca summit resolution which provided for a ban on the import of arms through the ports and for the establishment of an observation body to ensure this.

2. Therefore, the Front regards any importation of weapons for the al-Yarzah ['Awn's army] arsenal so it can continue its killing and destruction as tantamount to a violation of the cease-fire that calls for an appropriate response from the front.

3. At 0300 today, National Front's forces shelled the ports of Juniyah and Jubayl to foil an attempt to import weapons. The front's forces also shelled the ports of Tabarja and Aqua Marina at 1130 today also to prevent a similar attempt. The front's forces warn 'Awn's clique that they will deal with any attempt of this type in a manner that will deter this clique from continuing its war against Lebanon and its people.

Al-Khatib's Command Calls For 'Awn's Removal

NC1608161089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] A military source at the [Sami al-Khatib's] army's command today stated the following:

The recent statement by General Michel 'Awn was both puzzling and interesting. Addressing the military men of the nationalist areas, the general promised them reunion, but at the same time he is destroying their barracks, their military positions, and the positions of their leaders, and inflicting casualties on them.

On 15 August 1989 alone, two officers and eight soldiers were injured in Beirut. The barracks of Henri Shihab, Prince Fakhr al-Din, and Prince Bashir all received direct hits by the shells of the friendly liberator.

The army command in Beirut calls on the comrades in the eastern areas to rise in unison, rid Lebanon of its shackles, and end the nightmare which Gen 'Awn has visited on the country. Gen 'Awn is the foremost obstacle to any solution, reconciliation, or meeting. He is obstructing the unity of Lebanon and its army. Only by removing him can Lebanon, its unity and soil be saved.

PSP Issues Statement on Missing Fighters

NC1708131389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] An official source of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] issued the following statement today:

1. In a statement on the results of the raid carried out by the Popular Liberation Army—forces of Martyr Kamal Junblatt—on the positions of 'Awn's clique on the Suq al-Gharb and Beirut fronts, the PSP announced that 14 of its fighters in Suq al-Gharb were missing and that 'Awn's clique had killed 2 wounded fighters who were captured on the Ra's al-Nab' axis in violation of all the traditions and usages of warfare.

2. The PSP leadership contacted the International Red Cross, requesting it to intervene to clarify the fate of its missing and wounded fighters. 'Awn, however, refused to cooperate with the international organization. He announced that the missing and wounded fighters were dead. He moved their bodies to the government hospital in B'abda in a cheap political game to drag the relatives of our martyrs to B'abda.

3. The 14 martyrs whom 'Awn assassinated in Suq al-Gharb carried identification confirming their Lebanese national affiliation contrary to all misleading allegations with which 'Awn has tried to distort the facts. We challenge him to exhibit our martyrs to the media. Martyr Flayf, the Lebanese national fighter whom all the Lebanese have seen on the television screen, was a witness to the lies of 'Awn who burned the body of martyr Makhfur Haddad beyond recognition.

4. We pledge to our martyrs that the National Front's fighters will soon be present on the land where Michel 'Awn is holding them after Lebanon is liberated from this criminal clique.

'Sources' on Franjiyah Differences With Junblatt

PM1708091989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Aug 89 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Attempts To Contain Differences Between Franjiyah, Junblatt, Birri"]

[Text] Beirut, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—According to informed sources in Beirut, efforts have been under way over the past few days to contain the sharp differences which emerged in the past few weeks between Progressive Socialist Party leader Minister Walid Junblatt and Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri on one side and former President Sulayman Franjiyah on the other.

The sources say that Franjiyah has shown no enthusiasm about responding to these efforts and expressed his extreme resentment of the campaigns launched against him. Sources close to the former president have stated

that "never in his political life did he give in to blackmail and terrorism" and that "he refuses to answer these campaigns because they have been launched by changeable people who had often praised and commended the positions taken by President Franjiyah."

Informed sources say that recent statements by Junblatt and Birri have caused some anxiety in northern Lebanon, which is Franjiyah's stronghold. Some groups there have interpreted these statements—some of them made in Damascus—as a "message" reflecting the Syrian leadership's dissatisfaction with the positions taken by Franjiyah, who has for many years been one of Syria's staunchest allies in Lebanon.

Informed sources in Beirut attribute the intensified differences between Junblatt and Franjiyah to the latter's refusal to participate militarily in the battle against the military government of General Michel 'Awn despite his strong opposition to 'Awn's call for the withdrawal of the Syrian forces from Lebanon.

The sources say that Franjiyah, who is opposed to 'Awn, believes that the intensive shelling of the eastern areas would only increase support for 'Awn, not decrease it. The former president also believes that dealing a massive blow to the Lebanese Army units loyal to the military government would not speed up a settlement in Lebanon but would rather lead to "Lebanese Forces" control of the eastern areas currently under the control of the 'Awn government.

The sources further say that Franjiyah did not receive with satisfaction the news of the recent alliance announced in Tehran between Lebanese parties and Palestinian organizations loyal to Tehran. In private conversations he frequently criticizes the policy of some of 'Awn's opponents, which seeks to "create separate areas and cantons, not unite the country."

The same sources maintain that the criticism campaign does not bother Franjiyah, who has close links and an old friendship with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad dating back to the late fifties.

They say that one of the causes of the disagreement is the fact that Franjiyah has asked the Lebanese Army units in his area not to carry out any orders that might accentuate division of the military establishment, as if to place these units in a neutral or semi-neutral position, refusing to assign these units to Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib, who has been appointed army commander by Dr Salim al-Huss' government, which considered that position, originally occupied by 'Awn, to be vacant.

Hizballah Foreign Relations Conference Held

LD1608225889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] The fifth annual international conference of the revolutionary Hizballah's foreign relations section began its work in the region of Nahr al-Asi in Lebanon's al-Biqa'. In this conference foreign delegates and a large number of scholars and religious dignitaries participated. The theme of the conference was "support and allegiance."

According to IRNA, Sayyid Ibrahim al-'Amin, one of the leaders of the command council for Lebanon's revolutionary Hizballah, explained the present confrontation of Muslims with world arrogance, and stressed: The great developments which have taken place in Iran as a result of Imam Khomeyni's endeavor, God's benedictions be upon him, have been the greatest in the century.

Islamic Iran's efforts toward resolving the conflict between the Amal Movement and the revolutionary Hizballah, and the setting up of meetings of the Islamic and national forces of Lebanon and Palestine in Tehran have shown that it is Islam's central axis and the authoritative focal point for revolutionary Muslims.

The first day of this conference ended with expression of allegiance, once again, to His Eminence Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution.

Further on 16 Aug Fighting in Beirut, Mountain

NC1608180689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] The al-Yarzah [General Michel 'Awn] army exacerbated the security situation in the Mountain and Beirut this afternoon.

Residential areas in Tariq al-Jadidah, al-Barbir, al-Nuwayri, Barbur, and Ra's al-Nab' in West Beirut came under artillery fire. The town of 'Alayh was subjected to similar shelling, which also covered the towns of Baysur, 'Aytat, and Kayfun. At 1830 today, the al-Shuwayfat area, the airport road, and the airport were subjected to artillery fire from Bitshay.

We have learned that the areas of 'Alayh, Baysur, and their hills are coming under shell fire. Clashes are also taking place on the lines of Dahr al-Wahsh, Kayfun, and Ra's al-Jabal.

1 Killed in 17 Aug Shelling

NC1708102689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Clashes are taking place on the Sodeco, Primo, and Ra's al- Nab' combat lines in Beirut and shells are falling on adjacent residential areas. A number of shells fell in the outskirts of al-Ashrafiyah, while a shell fell in 'Ayn al-Rummanah at approimately 1215 today. Between 1100 and 1120 today, some 80 shells fell in Kasrawan area and coast. The fire originated in Syrian artillery emplacements in al-Mughithi, Tarshish, and Bulunya. A child was killed and a man injured in Kasrawan as a result of the shelling.

More on Visit by Iran's Foreign Minister Velayati

Holds Talks With Al-Shar'

JN1608145689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] A round of talks took place in Damascus at the Foreign Ministry this afternoon between Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Iranian Ambassador in Damascus Mohammad Hasan Akhtari participated in the talks.

The talks dealt with the same topics that were discussed yesterday between the two sides—the Syrian and the Iranian—especially developing and expanding existing relations between the two countries in various fields. The talks also dealt with the current developments in the region and the situation in Lebanon.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN1608181489 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Damascus this evening after a 3-day visit to Damascus. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Also seeing him off were Assistant Foreign Minister Diya'-al-Din al-Fattal, the head of the Protocol Department at the Foreign Ministry, the Iranian ambassador in Damascus, and the embassy staff.

In a statement to SANA news agency, Dr Velayati expressed his great thanks to the Syrian Arab Republic's Government, headed by President Hafiz al-Asad, for the hospitality, cooperation, and constructive work which greatly helped in convening and rendering successful the second conference of the Lebanese nationalist and Islamic forces and the Palestinian forces.

Dr Velayati described his visit to Damascus as successful, positive, and very constructive within the framework of developing relations between the two countries, as well as within the framework of joint cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Lebanese national and Islamic forces, and the Palestinian forces.

[Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic at 1700 GMT carries a similar report which adds that Velayati canceled a press conference he was scheduled to hold prior to his departure from Damascus.]

Lebanese, Palestinian Groups Issue Statement

JN1508194089 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1753 GMT 15 Aug 89

["Text" of statement issued by the nationalist and Islamic forces in Lebanon and by the Palestine National Salvation Front following their meeting in Damascus on 15 August read by Zahir al-Khatib, secretary general of the Lebanese workers' association—recorded]

[Text] 1. The forces attending the meeting repeat that the presence of the Zionist occupation in Lebanon and the continuation of the political sectarianism and monopoly constitute the basis of the U.S.-Zionist plot; and that a solution to the Lebanese crisis which saves Lebanon from the circle of the plot should be based on the removal of the Zionist occupation from every part of Lebanese territory and on pulling up the roots of the sectarian system.

2. The continuation of 'Awn as a tool to implement the Zionist-imperialist project through his destructive course [words indistinct] should unify the forces which are attending the meeting and are concerned about Lebanon and its Arab role in the face of the imperialist-Zionist plot. 'Awn's dictatorial and military project should prompt us to confront him, use every means to topple him, and cross all the red lines, which the Suq al-Gharb battles proved to be to be futile.

3. The conferees condemned the Iraqi regime's support for 'Awn's destructive project, which is part of the Zionist plot to partition Lebanon and isolate it from its Arab and Islamic environment as a prelude to the establishment of another Israel in the region.

4. The conferees salute the heroes of the national and Islamic resistance in Lebanon, pledging to escalate their struggle and provide all that is required to reinforce and promote their role against the Zionist enemy and its agents in order to liberate all Lebanese territory and release all the detainees in the occupation's prisons. The conferees also condemn Zionist piracy and its abduction of struggler Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and his two relatives. They also urged the international institutions to condemn Israel for stepping up its terrorism and its aggression. They also demand the release of the shaykh and all of the detainees in the enemy's prisons.

5. The conferees stress that the continuation of the intifadah [uprising] in Palestine is the result of a renewed and confident belief in the ability of the masses to resist and confront the occupation. The conferees also condemn the policy of concessions and surrender adopted by 'Arafat through conferences, meetings, and dialogue with the Zionists and the Americans. The conferees also stress their support for the intifadah and its escalation and that jihad and armed struggle are the best way to liberate Palestine and protect the Palestine cause from the dangers of the Israeli and U.S. projects, foremost of which is the Shamir plan.

6. The conferees highly appreciate the current alliance between Al-Asad's Syria, the spearhead against the capitulatory settlement projects and the Zionist-imperialist aggression against the region, and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the vanguard of confrontation of U.S. arrogance and its aggressive plans. The conferees also highly appreciate the two countries' support for the Palestinian people's intifadah and their just cause as well as their support for the natioanl and Islamic resistance against the occupier Zionist enemy and the isolationist, partitionist, and Zionized projects in Lebanon.

7. The conferees hail the steadfastness of Beirut and all the national and Islamic areas, which are being exposed to 'Awn's destructive war, and call for the setting up of a higher steadfastness body to tackle the social and living crises and find practical solutions to them.

8. The conferees stress the content of the statement they issued in Tehran on 15 July, 1989. They also stress the unity of their ranks, the need to promote their joint struggle, and the establishment of a follow-up committee to continue to coordinate efforts among themselves in order to implement the contents of the statement.

Junblatt, Hawi Comment After Meeting

JN1608080489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] yesterday stressed that he hopes peace will be achieved in Lebanon and that 'Awn's devastating war against Lebanon and its sons will end. Junblatt spoke about the Iraqi regime's arms supplies to 'Awn's clique. He said: We must defend ourselves.

News agencies cited Junblatt following the meeting that included the representatives of the Lebanese parties and forces and the Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF] factions in Damascus as saying that the attack on Suq al-Gharb has proved that there are no red lines in Lebanon, and that it has become possible to carry out any action at any time and in any place.

George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party, has stressed that a unified front will be established as a result of the Damascus meetings to mobilize all material and human resources to topple 'Awn and his clique that is imposing its hegemony on Lebanon. Hawi added that there is Lebanese Islamic unanimity to confront the imperialist-Israeli-Iraqi-reactionary challenge.

Talas Interviewed on Iran, Israel, Lebanon

JN1608152089 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 15 Aug 89 p 23

[Interview with General Mustafa Talas, deputy prime minister and defense minister, by Sulayman al-Hakim in Damascus; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Hakim] Before anything else, we would like you to assure us about the situation of the Syrian Armed Forces and the level they reached compared to that during the October [1973] war.

[Talas] The Syrian Armed Forces are now much better than they were during the October war. Our conflict with Israel is fateful. Therefore, when I refer to the future, I do not mean the coming days, but the coming years. The Syrian forces will be able to wage the conflict, even if they are alone. However, we are optimistic about the future. The Egyptian forces cannot remain neutral toward Israel.

[Al-Hakim] Can Iran help Syria in its conflict with Israel while Syria's relations with Iraq have deteriorated? And how can Iranian forces or assistance arrive in Syria?

[Talas] Without a doubt, the movement will be more difficult, but not impossible. Iranian aid can reach us by air. Iran can also supply Syria with aircraft. Iran can annually purchase weapons worth $10 billion, as its annual oil revenues amount to over $50 billion.

[Al-Hakim] How can Iran help Syria in its war with Israel, while it is confirmed that Iran itself receives weapons from Israel?

[Talas] The press has made a great mistake in its treatment of this issue. I hope the mistake will not be repeated. Iran spent $600 billion on military purchases, of which only $25 million were used to purchase spare parts for its U.S. weapons from Israel. This sum was insignificant in comparison with the overall Iranian military puchases. Moreover, Iran did not purchase weapons from Israel directly, but through Argentine brokers. On the other hand, Iran is against Israel. This is known and confirmed. No matter what, Imam Khomeyni would not have agreed to receive Menahem Begin, the butcher of Dayr Yasin, as al-Sadat and others did.

Let me ask you: Who killed 'Amiram Nir, who arranged the Israeli weapons sale to Iran? He was killed by the United States to clear North, whose name was connected with what was called Irangate.

[Al-Hakim] Was Iran aware that those weapons were Israeli-made?

[Talas] No. Iran was not aware of that. Had it been aware, it would not have agreed to purchase them. As the Arab saying goes, one would rather die than relinquish his honor. Let me ask you: Had Israel been supporting Iran, would Iraq have been able to stand against it and defeat it, as happened? This would have been impossible had Iran really been receiving aid from Israel. I say this to be truthful and fair, despite the differences between us and the Iranians. We are affiliated with the Ba'th Party, which is a secular party that preaches Arab unity and says that Muslims and Christians are members of the same Arab family and united with Arabism.

On the other hand, Iran says secularism is apostasy and pan-Arabism is racism. It preaches Islamic unity. However, these differences between us and the Iranians did

not prevent us from supporting them and did not prevent them from supporting us. We and Iran are bound with hostility toward Israel and the United States.

[Al-Hakim] Despite the fact that feelings of animosity toward Israel join you with Iran, as you say, how does a frontline state with Israel, namely Syria, provide aid to Iran, which is far from Israel's borders, at a time when Iran should have aided Syria and not the reverse?

[Talas] We did not give Iran military support. I challenge anyone who says the contrary. All we gave Iran during its war with Iraq did not exceed moral, political, or media support. Iran did not receive any military support throughout the war period. Syria's means do not allow it to provide military or material support. Even if it were within our means, we believe that our major struggle is with Israel and not with any other side. The Gulf war, as far as we were concerned, was a side war with no justification whatsoever. It is not logical for us to exert our brains and spend our means on a side war at a time when we still fight our major one with our major enemy, Israel.

[Al-Hakim] Some media organs published information that Syria imported weapons from some Eastern and Western sides and gave them to Iran, thus breaking the international arms ban imposed on Iran.

[Talas] That is not at all true. Experts can find out where Iran got its weapons. As I told you, we did not provide Iran with anything other than moral and diplomatic support.

[Al-Hakim] The Syrian Army is known to be ideologically oriented; that is, it is trained along the motto of pan-Arab and Arab security doctrines. What if Iran had threatened the security of Iraq or any other Arab country?

[Talas] Had Iran done that and attacked any other Arab country in the Gulf, we would have fought against it immediately. The Iranians knew this well. However, our policy was clear all along: Not to create any enmity between the Arabs and the Iranian Muslims, who are our tributary in our major battle with Israel. Any war between us and the Iranians would have turned our goals by 180 degrees, because our goal is to fight and continue the struggle with Israel alone. We should not be dragged into anything other than that.

[Al-Hakim] Are Iraqi or Syrian troops massed along the joint borders?

[Talas] There are no activities out of the ordinary along the border with Iraq. There are no exceptional forces on the joint borders between us, whether Syrian or Iraqi forces.

[Al-Hakim] Is a military solution to the Lebanese problem an option for Syria?

[Talas] We do not want a military solution to the Lebanese problem. It is for Lebanon's nationalist forces to decide on the right solution. We are only playing a supportive role toward these forces and their armed forces. It is up to the Lebanese national forces, and not to us, to decide.

[Al-Hakim] Some observers see a new war between Israel and Syria as a way out of the tight corner in which the intifadah [uprising] pushed Israel. What do you think?

[Talas] Fear of Israel is not any longer on the agenda of the Syrian Arab Army. We are prepared for the expected Israeli attack, for which they will pay many times what they have bargained for. The war with Israel is welcome, as such a development is bound to make the Soviets take a more hardline stand toward Israel and bring them still closer to us. Moreover, the Soviets will become even more convinced that the Americans are not serious about their efforts to work out a just solution. Besides, a war with Israel will embarrass a good many pro-U.S. Arabs before their peoples and armies. For these reasons we do want war with Israel, as it would do us good. Neither the Americans nor the Israelis want this war since it will do a great disservice to them. I therefore think that Israel will not embark on this war.

[Al-Hakim] If you stand to gain and Israel and the United States to lose from this war, what is holding you back from starting it?

[Talas] This is up to us to decide. Our preparedness and armaments and local, Arab, and international circumstances come into play. Wars are waged based on calculations that ought to be absolutely accurate. We will not brook any mistake, no matter how small. It will be for us to set the timing and field of the war. We will not have any party drag us into a war, the place and timing of which are not decided by us.

[Al-Hakim] It is sometimes asked why Syria does not open the border with Israel to Palestinian and Syrian commandos to support the intifadah and thus lay a military and popular siege against Israel.

[Talas] We have told our brother commandos to come to the Syrian front and coordinate with us. This is because I will be the one who will provide blood and cover and be the target of Israeli retaliation; therefore, I am entitled to be privy to the goal, date, and place of any operation so that I am not caught unawares. We will not accept that two or three people stage an eye-catching play; we are against such spectacular acting. We stand for effective, true operations. If 'Arafat is interested in such commando operations, he is welcome. Not only that, we will give him every help possible. They have often given some shepherd a few hundred [Syrian] pounds to lay a mine for them. The shepherd takes the money without completing the mission or even sells the mine to Israel for another 100 pounds. This is a preposterous excercise in which we refuse to have any part. We are opposed to

plane hijackings and the laying of mines and other such trivial actions. We will only support efficacious operations that have been coordinated with us, because on the land of Syria the decison must be ours rather than others'.

[Al-Hakim] To what extent does the Syrian presence in Lebanon affect the Syrian forces confronting Israel?

[Talas] We are in Lebanon to confront Israel. Israel is in southern Lebanon, just as it is in southern or western Syria. We do not differentiate between fighting Israel here in Syria or in Lebanon.

[Al-Hakim] However, in this case, the front with Israel will expand in a manner exceeding the capabilities of both the Syrian Army and Syria.

[Talas] Expanding the front here with us would also mean that their [Israel's] front would be expanded.

[Al-Hakim] Some observers believe that Syria is a potential possessor of chemical and atomic bombs. How true is this?

[Talas] Israel possesses atomic and chemical weapons supplied to it by the United States. As for us in Syria, we have not chosen to pursue such a course, as there is an international deterrent, namely the USSR, to which we are bound by a treaty of friendship and cooperation. This deterrent prevents Israel from using atomic or chemical weapons against us. Israel obtained these weapons from the United States to terrorize us. If we let this frighten us, Israel would have achieved the objectives it set for its possession of these weapons. However, we are not afraid because Israel has these weapons, as the USSR represents along with us an international deterrent and guarantee. The USSR will not allow the balance of power in the region to be disturbed. If a state friendly to the USSR is attacked, the USSR will certainly not be content with the stand of a spectator. The USSR would give us atomic bombs to use to attack Israel if we were hit by Israel's atomic bombs. The reports being circulated by the Israeli and U.S. media organs to the effect that Syria is manufacturing chemical weapons are baseless. This talk is designed to terrorize us and to justify Israel's possession of such destructive weapons.

[Al-Hakim] How far have you gone in your plan to achieve a strategic parity with Israel, the slogan you upheld after the signing of the Camp David accords?

[Talas] The Syrian Army is the strongest Arab army nowadays. The Israelis said this, and not me. With the passage of time, our strength is bolstered. I hope that you will be fully reassured about this.

[Al-Hakim] In your opinion, what is the effect of the Camp David accords on the military option involving hostilities with Israel?

[Talas] The neutralization of Egypt realized through the signing of the Camp David accords has affected the military situation regarding the confrontation with Israel. This is an indisputable fact. The Egyptian Army is strong. The fact that it is being neutralized strengthens Israel. However, we are optimistic about the future, as Egypt's interests would not be served if it remained kept for long from the arena of the conflict with Israel, particularly since Egypt is targeted by Israel, just as Syria, Iraq, and the remaining Arab states located between the Nile and the Euphrates are targeted.

[Al-Hakim] Will you provide the Lebanese national forces with missiles to confront the missiles East Beirut received?

[Talas] We have not refused to provide our Lebanese brothers with missiles, and we will provide them with everything they need. This is because we consider them a part of the Syrian Army. If we believe that they are in real danger from the missiles of some, we will provide them with missiles to confront these missles. Under no circumstances will we allow the defeat of the Lebanese national forces, because their defeat is also that of the Syrian Army, just as their victory is ours.

[Al-Hakim] There are those who expect that East Beirut will use its missiles against Damascus. Have you taken sufficient precautions to confront that?

[Talas] We have not taken any precautions. I wish from the bottom of my heart that East Beirut would do that, so that some would see their inevitable fate. We are not afraid of sacrifices. We have sacrificed a great deal. We will not be miserly in our sacrifices confronting East Beirut. However, they will not be sacrificed for free. East Beirut will have to pay the price of all that immediately.

[Al-Hakim] If Israel attacked Syria, would you expect the Egyptians to implement the joint Arab defense agreement?

[Talas] You should ask the Egyptians themselves this question. However, from my experience I would say that this would greatly embarrass President Husni Mubarak. He still has some time to completely do away with the traces of Camp David which Sadat bequeathed him. I believe that if the Arabs gave Mubarak the equivalent amount of aid that he receives from the United States, that would help him a great deal in overcoming the Camp David obstacle.

[Al-Hakim] Does Syria now receive any aid from Arab countries?

[Talas] We used to receive the aid agreed on at the Baghdad summit of 1979, which was set for 10 years. After the 10 years were over, we did not receive any aid from any Arab country.

Press Views 'Essence' of Lebanese Crisis

JN1708063589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 17 Aug 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Storm of Deception Will Not Change the Essence of the Crisis," AL-BA'TH says: The campaign of deception accompanying the sharp escalation by 'Awn's clique is aimed at blocking the view toward the essence of the Lebanese crisis, which lies in the fact that the Lebanese people are sick and tired of the system of sectarian privileges and exceptions. The paper explains that the current developments in Lebanon show the extent of the crisis of the agent group as it faces the Lebanese will, which rejects the dominance of this group and demands equality and sovereign rights.

The paper adds: 'Awn and his foreign backers' determination to upset the Lebanese equation is an evasion of the demands for reforms and reformulation of the political system—demands that the majority of the Lebanese people will not abandon or go back on.

AL-BA'TH goes on: 'Awn went too far in his destructive scheme when he pushed Syria's name in the military explosions with a view to portraying Syria as a party to the internal Lebanese crisis. But the aim of 'Awn and his group is now obvious. Syria does not like to enter wars. When it entered Lebanon, it did so to carry out a humanitarian and fraternal mission upon comprehensive official and popular invitations. Events have proved that Syria never supported a certain Lebanese party; it supports the entire Lebanese homeland and the Lebanese people in their struggle against all forms of exploitation and subordination.

AL-THAWRAH says: Those who think that 'Awn's clique will respect calls for a cease-fire are mistaken. This clique, which continues to obstruct the role of the constitutional institutions, and which practiced violence and terrorism to block the role of these institutions and plunge the country into a crisis, is the same clique that opened fire on Lebanon and blocked the role of its institutions. Later, this clique opened fire at the tripartite Arab committee, obstructed its role, blocked its mission in Lebanon, and brought it to a dead end. It is the same clique that attacked the resolutions of the Casablanca summit with help from the Iraqi regime and the Zionists.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Therefore, the Lebanese nationalist forces determined their stand, stressing that any solution to the Lebanese crisis should be based on removing the occupation and undermining the foundations of the sectarian system.

Cairo Papers Cited on U.S. Mideast Policy

PM1608130189 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 7 Aug 89 pp 1, 11

[Unattributed report: "Cairo Press Criticizes U.S. position"]

[Text] Cairo, KUNA—The Cairo newspaper AL-AKHBAR has warned of the consequences of the Zionist entity's gangsterism and piracy in the Middle East.

In its editorial yesterday, the paper said that the execution of the U.S. officer and the threat to execute other hostages were symptoms of the cancer in the body of the Middle East, the cancer that is the entity implanted in the region by the force of terrorism and international conspiracy to always be a threat to all the countries of the region and to prevent these countries from concentrating their efforts on development and progress.

Israel, the paper added, is still predominantly run with the same gangster method which created it, despite the passage of over 40 years. It maintained that the anxiety and tension experienced by U.S. President Bush and his government will be frequently repeated so long as Washington remains unable or unwilling to deter its protege, Israel, or convince it that it is not above any international law.

The paper asked: Is the current tension in the Middle East not enough to convince the U.S. officials that Israeli gangsterism is endangering American lives and interests and that the Tel Aviv leaders do not care about these lives and interests as long as they fulfill their objectives?

Meanwhile, Cairo's AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the United States has lost much of its credibility through continued alignment with Israel and that the current lesson presents the U.S. Administration with a golden opportunity to opt for the appropriate course in dealing with the Middle East question.

In an editorial yesterday, the paper said that the U.S. Administration is now certain that the right way to tackle the massive volcano in the Middle East is not one of partiality for Israel nor of support for Israeli actions but of a fair approach to the core of the problem through promotion of a comprehensive and just peace through an international peace conference attended by all parties concerned.

Afghanistan

Najibullah's Speech to Opposition Commanders

LD1708020889 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Part I of speech by President Najibullah to opposition commanders who have joined the national reconciliation policy on 14 August in Kabul—recorded]

[Excerpts] First, I request from one of you to open this Afghan and patriotic meeting which is based on reconciliation, friendship, and sincerity with a few verses from the holy Koran. Please one of you, I request. [Koranic verse omitted]

I welcome you to the heart of your country, the capital of your liberated country, the proud and historical, Afghanistan, the Islamic Afghanistan. I welcome you to Kabul. May God's peace and progress be upon you. [passage omitted]

A question occurs to us: Why do these dignitaries and leaders of the organizations who call us, God forbid, and who call themselves Muslims not accept the order of God?. If Najibullah did not accept it. [sentence as heard] They were accusing us, though if one once utters the words that there is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger, then no one has the right to accuse him of infidelity. They themselves plunge into sin, but they call themselves faithful. However, they assert war, war, and war to the end, to the last Afghan.

You have seen the letter head of Hezb-e Eslami, you must have seen it. it is headed by the slogan "War, war, war until victory." This question of what way we should select does not occur to you: the path of God or on the order of Golbuddin? You may boldly tell me that you should take the path of God. We are grateful that we proudly walk this path. It was on the basis of this belief and the assent of his Islamic principle that we fowarded the policy of national reconciliation and Islamic brotherhood. I tell you clearly that when we declared the policy of national reconciliation our purpose was to remove all excuses for differences between Afghans and Muslim brothers. One of the excuses was the presence of the Soviet units in Afghanistan. Let us acquiesce the orders of God. The Soviets left our country, including about 110,000, 120,000 of their armed individuals, tanks, modern arms, assortment of rockets, various types of airplanes; there was a strong logistical presence. All went. We remained here on our own. The whole world said that the regime would fall in hours, days, or a week at the most as soon the Soviet forces left. What is the wisdom that the regime is still viable? Weeks passed. Months passed. Now we are given seasons. Bush said and agreed with Benazir Bhutto to give the armed opposition force time to prove themselves in battlefields and to overthrow the regime.

They [the mujahidin] also listen to the infidels. Whereas it is said in the Koran that we give dignity if we please and we infict suffering if we please, the goodness in his hands and God indeed is capable of doing everything. Dignity and suffering is from God. He is able and he is capable to do everything. Unless God wants, nothing can be done by anyone. Alright, the Soviet Union left us and we remained alone. What happened in retrospect? In principle, the Geneva accord should have been observed. What were the Geneva accords: Refugees should return; Pakistani intervention into Afghanistan should not take place; their training centers should not operate; their offices should be closed; no assistance from Pakistan's territory should be extended to them. You see how much strength of resistance they would have had if these agreements had been implemented. Despite this, they were trampled.

The Pakistani militia came too. The Pakistani commandos came too. There are no fronts [as heard]. If you have not seen them, but of course you have seen them or you at least have heard, that Saudi mercenaries are not there. The supporters of Wahhabiism and the anti-Islam sect in Afghanistan came too. Not only dozens, not hundreds, but thousands have come. They have come with enormous money with dollars and dinars.

In connection with the Jalalabad attack I should say that Pakistan's XI Corps was using their supply. It was backing their operations with heavy weapons and artillery. Even transportation was taking place with helicopters going to Ghaziabad farms and some regions around Jalalabad.

Why did they not win? What has happened? Before the withdrawal of the limited Soviet forces, 1 Hamal, which is 21 March on the European calander, was announced as Afghanistan's Day by Reagan. He delivered a speech last year on that day. He said that the days of this regime and Najibullah's fate and existence are numbered and said that this regime and Najibullah are counting the days of their survival. The president of a great country! Now Bush has taken his place. But, Najibullah is still in his chair to serve Afghanistan's people. Reagan is no longer president. The president of one of the greatest world powers! Whose will is it? Whose work is it? [crowd shouts: God's will!]

You all heard when Ziaul Haq announced that Kabul would be theirs in a week and that he would perform two strains of thankful prayers in Pol-e Kheshti mosque [in Kabul]. Do you remember this? [crowd shouts: Yes!] Ziaul Haq is no longer here. We perform the thankful prayers in Pol-e Kheshti mosque that we prevented foreign aggression and interference. Whose will is this and whose work is this?

Sir Geoffrey Howe came to Pakistan 3 months ago; he came as the British foreign minister. He, as a well-known Englishman who knows about our history, carried out a series of meetings with the Pakistani Government. At the

same time, he met Mojadeddi, head of the so-called interim. On his way home he carried out an interview in India and said that the only solution of the issue of Afghanistan is connected to this issue and that Najibullah should go. The internal situation and political struggle in Britain became such that Sir Geoffrey Howe is no longer British foreign minister. Najibullah is still sitting where he was. Reagan, British Foreign Minister Howe, and Ziaul Haq, military president of Pakistan. They have money, they have power. They have weapons. They have secret services and are able to do anything. However, why has such a situation occurred? This is the will of God.

I say that if it were the will of God that I would not be here, for even 2 seconds longer, I would not be here even for 2 seconds. However, these great powers and big claims have left the political and work stage. I am still engaged in my work to ensure peace and security and to serve my people, my brothers. Why? I repeat that we believe in the fact that we are Muslim people. [Koranic verses omitted]

In the political spheres everyone supports the idea of peace and votes against war. They [the opposition] have lost their policy. Golbuddin went to some countries as a foreign minister and returned while only a few countries officially recognized him which they now regret, I am sure.

You might have heard about the discords which exist among them recently, via the radios. They say that Golbuddin is a criminal and a murderer. He is a killer. Until yesterday when we were saying this they regarded it as state propaganda. Today Rabbani says that about him too. He [Golbuddin] in return says that both Rabbani and Sebghatullah [Mojadeddi] are self-motivated people. This government, the government that they wanted to transfer it from there to Afghanistan with the order of aliens, with the order of Pakistan's military intelligence, with the order of Pakistani militarists, and with the order of the U.S. CIA spy network, today he [Golbuddin] says that Sebghatullah has only a few days left as a president and should go to the election. I mean, Golbuddin says this and he also says that if he does not go to the election, we will boycott this government and its life has ended, the government that they wanted to export to Afghanistan with such a cost. [sentence as heard]

In Jalalabad, 20,000 to 30,000 of the joint enemy attacked. Daily they fired 15,000 to 20,000 missiles on a city. What casualties have our people not given? Today they themselves are standing against that government. If they were saying in the past that we form the shura in Rawalpindi because there was bombardment by the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan in Afghanistan and we were unable to carry out an election there and we will transfer the government to Afghanistan at a later date, today why do they use an axe to break into pieces the government which was formed by that council? My guns and aircraft are not there. My military pressure is not there. You tell me, whose will is this? [passage omitted]

I tell you the path I have chosen is a righteous one. This is the path of the restoration of peace, security, brotherhood, and reconciliation. We have only paid attention to the screams of widows and children. [applause] Tears will not remain in the eyes of our orphans; instead they will smile. Blind rockets will not destroy the houses of the poor and miserable. That everyone will live with his family in peace and perform his religious duties is the right path. I predict that this path will succeed. Otherwise, until yesterday, the Soviets were with us and we had enormous problems. Now I tell you, the West is generally quiet, central areas are calm, the north, where you are its representatives, is calm. Ibrahim Beg is here. A great success has been acheived in Ghowr Province. I tell you a miracle has taken place. Two-thirds of the commanders do not fight. You say that the Soviet Union has left and other forces came along and commanders also fought against us. Unless our policy was correct, should this happen? By now we should have lost the game.

In one of my previous speeches I also said that if they were not in the hands of the aliens or if they had freedom and were the children of the Afghans, they should have declared, to the people of Afghanistan, on the day the Soviet troops withdrew: I was fighting for your freedom. Now that the Soviet Union has pulled out, I liberated the country for you, and lay down my gun and will not kill my sister, mother, brother, the elderly father.

Come on, who will you people of Afghanistan vote for? You will vote either for those who brought Russians or for those who ejected Russians. They claim they have ejected them. The second question: Do you vote for those who caused bloodshed for 12 years or for those who lay down their guns and no longer want to kill their children and sisters and mothers? Tell me, who will the people of Afghanistan vote for? They will vote for them. But the issue is that their path is not right. They do not obey the order of God . They have deviated from the path of Islam. They say, clearly, that they want to impose a Wahhabi sect, which has shortened our Kalema [phrase meaning There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger]. The sect says it does not accept but one-fourth of the Koran, which says it does not accept the prophet's deeds. They have raised other issues such as who can marry who. These things do not conform with our Islam and faith and traditions and Afghan customs. This is why I tell you that the propaganda which was launched against us for 10 years, that we brought the Soviet Union to the country, took a 180-degree turn in 5 or 6 months. The people of Afghanistan say that they are in the hands of Pakistan, that they are sold, that while one alien has left they will not bring in another alien. But they bring them in and bring them to the battlefronts. All these anti-Afghan and anti-Islamic acts take place; the

people of Afghanistan see them with their eyes. Cities were burned, schools and mosques were destroyed, the people's dignity and honor were assaulted.

The people of Afghanistan will soon judge by asking: For what will I destroy my home? Whether any Afghan agrees to destroy his own home which may be in Ghowr, in Balkh, or in Chekhcharan; and blow up his own home or hit his home with a rocket or shoot his brother. An Afghan will not do this. However, if he is not an Afghan, that is a different question. Or, God forbid, he may well be a self-motivated person.

The second issue: As a matter of fact the genocide committed by Americans with the firing or rockets by the self-motivated people bereave everyone of us, our people. I tell you, you may listen to world radios, a U.S. officer by the name of William Higgins was abducted by the Hizballah of Lebanon. The Israelis abducted a leader of Hizballah in a combat operation. They abducted Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd. This is called kidnapping. But the one who is abducted by Israel is not kidnapping. Hizballah threatened that unless their leader was released they would kill the American in 24 hours. The American was killed after 24 hours. A hue and cry was launched in the world. The U.S. Congress held a session and advised U.S. President Bush that it endorses any amount of financial aid he needs to avenge and retaliate because that action was a terrorist act; it is murder; an American was killed. Tell the Afghan nation. A rocket lands in a road junction and on that day 40 people die and 120 others are injured. For one person there is terrorism and the whole world moves, and it is murder, but when in one junction rockets land and cause such a loss of life, let alone other losses, what should this be called?

Our nation is facing such a test that of course our people's blood is not wasted. All the Afghan people say that the U.S. is our enemy; some Americans say that for the last 10 years we, the Afghan people, have the Soviet Union in the same position as the Vietnamese had the U.S. and that we will defame them and force them to escape. This is the U.S. that imposes war on us now. This was true when they were saying that the Soviet Union came to ensure peace and security. Now the Soviet Union is gone; why does it [United States] give rockets to be fired on our innocent people?

They should fight against the government, against a military target. You [the opposition] said that we will fight to the end. We proposed to them that there is no need for this. You tell us, what do you want? Islam in danger? Thanks to God now it has been proved that we are pure Muslims and they are Wahhabis. [applause] The Soviets have come. The Soviets have gone. Now it has been proved that instead of the Soviet Union, they bring a person from every corner of the world, not only a person but dozens of people. They bring one as a journalist, as a doctor, and that one as expert and as military adviser from the U.S. They bring another one from somewhere else and someone from France, from the world over. Arabs are countless. It has been proved who brings the aliens to this country. We have fulfilled our Musolmani and Afghaniat [Islam and Afghani tradition], that is the commitment that we have given to the people of Afghanistan. We have said that we will put the Geneva accords into practice. We will ask our friends to go and God be with you and we know the fate of Afghans. [applause]

However, those people who were saying that this regime has brought in the foreigners, why have they brought foreigners themselves? This war and fratricide put a heavy burden on our people. Their face and also of the faces of their international patrons have been uncovered in a short period of time.

Now, people both in Afghanistan and in the world judge differently. Not only the people of Afghanistan but fortunately, fortunately, I did not make a mistake when I said that these internal commanders are more valuable to me than to those leaders for, they have fought inside Afghanistan for 10 years and have carried out the heavy burden of war. [applause] Therefore, his pride, honor, and his Afghan zeal are valuable to me. He, at least, has not left his country. He lived under difficult conditions and carried out his mission with hard work. What cold winters survived and what a cold summer. [sentence as heard] He did not find time to wash himself. He has been living away from his family, from his wife, from his kind mother and from his father. I know that such a talent will be among these commanders inside. They people of Afghanistan understand this now. I have told you, I predicted and have said—I did not insult them—that they do not have the authority of leadership. It has been proved to you now in practice. Now the confrontation is not with us. We were saying that there are a number of the extremists and a number of moderates and a number of the emigrants and a number of commanders inside. We were saying that we will get closer to the commanders inside and will work with them. We were saying that they are the principled power. If they do not fight then they [the leaders] are nothing. They are alive as a result of them [the commanders]. The emigrants are fed up. They organize demonstrations against them. The moderates do not want to follow such a hot and fast policy.

Now you can see what is happening. One of them says he is a criminal. They mean Golbuddin. He is murderer. He is an assassin. Mojaddedi says that he [Golbuddin] has several times had plans for my assassination. Hekmatyar, you know he is his foreign minister and the foreign minister of his interim government. He is his president. Now you can see selfishness. This is a government which does not realy exist in practice. You better think about whether they take a true and real government here in Afghanistan. What type of murder and killing will happen? Each one of them are Al-Sadat, (Nimrod) and Napoleon. One says that power should be mine alone and the other one says no the power should be mine

alone. As many times as I invite them, Almighty God says. [Koranic verse omitted] Let us come, all of us and gather together, as you are Muslims and know it. Let us reach to God's rope. No each one of them says: No, me alone.

One says to the other you go and resign from the government and the other one says no you go and resign from this government. A government which still exist in imagination and does not really exist. This is Pakistan, which does this to use them. However, I talk to you, dear and esteemed leaders and brothers about another aspect of the issue.

I wish the situation was in such a way that Pakistan used them by its own hands as a tool against the Government of Afghanistan and [word indistinct] that it is infidels. My question is: Was Pakistan not able to change all these seven formations to one? Why does it keep each formation separately while there is an interim government? The interim government has its own Defense Ministry. Each formation has a military commission. If someone believes in that government, then why one should have a military commission? I have said this in my other speeches, too. If there is a Ministry of Finance in that government, then why does each formation have financial commission? Why does it [Pakistan] keep each formation? This is a main question. Pakistan is afraid of its own future. Forty-two years have elapsed since its formation. Before that date it did not exist on the map of the world. With the difficulties which exist today inside Pakistan such as dissatisfaction among the Baluch, Pashtuns, Sinds, as well as differences in the civilian government and differences among Pakistan's military men, what will be the future of this country? Benazir Bhutto becomes prime minister; they tell her that you can have the chair only on the condition that you do not interfere in military affairs. You should accept the foreign policy in particular in connection with Afghanistan which was the policy of Ziaul Haq. Also, you should not touch the authority of the president. Benazir Bhutto says: I will accept. Just like a prime minister in prison she comes and sits in the chair. There is such a contrast. There are many like economic problems, political issues, and nationality issues. I do not want to take your time on those issues.

They think about the fact that there is a great power on their other side, that is India and if there will be a powerful Afghanistan in this side, then, Pakistan will be crushed between two millstones. The reason and source of all the issues are coming from here. Therefore, Pakistan has decided to protect Pakistan's existence and future; it must bring its puppet regime to power in Afghanistan to obey her. As they [leaders of extremists] did so before taking power in Afghanistan, we do not officially recognize the Durand Line.

There will be no need for passports and visas and Afghanistan will be a fifth province [of Pakistan] and this will bring confederation with Pakistan. If there ever be a war between Afghanistan and Pakistan we will stand on Pakistan's side, despite the fact that we are Afghans and foreign minister, or prime minister, or head of the interim government. When an attack takes place over Jalalabad, such a plan is made by Pakistan's military intelligence. They have made it for the destruction of our country, Afghanistan. [Pakistan says:] Either this interim government should come to power, or if this government does not come to power then Afghanistan should be divided. If Afghanistan is not divided, then it should be destroyed in such a way and should be crushed into pieces in such a way that by time it stands on its feets and remedies its wounds it should need not only 10 years, 50 years, but centuries to do so. Then by the time a weak Afghanistan becomes powerful, Pakistan will be standing squarely on its feet. The basis of the calculation is here. It has taken this plan for this purpose which destroys Afghanistan from now on. It has started a campaign against our Islam with Wahabiism. It has pinned their sinister eyes to our country's honor, pride, and prestige. They not only forced the seventh formations to fight us but they created discord among them, too.

It tries to keep it that way so that if a new government comes, this regime will not be here, even if it is a seventh formation regime in Afghanistan, they should be so involved in fighting each other that its [Pakistan's] goal, which is a weak and unable [country], is a destroyed Afghanistan with no human being living on it only dust, desert, and mountain. There should not be a city, a village, a road, a bridge, a hospital, or a school in this country. This plan advances. It is in this connection that I tell you, I say clearly that if the other people were happy that the Sayyed Jamal group stood up and killed more than 30 commanders of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud in Takhar and they now begin a struggle among each other, and Mas'ud came and encircled the Hezb-e Eslami groups in Takhar and Badakhshan and each one kills the other and I had told you that I am happy about this issue, but, I tell you from the bottom of my heart that I am unhappy about this issue. [sentence as heard] [applause]

I regret it. If until yesterday that side was Muslim and this side infidel, God forgiven, then why does Muslim fight Muslim now? Why does Afghan fight Afghan? Why do they not let them join together [in an alliance of seven]?

My invitation, as a servant of Afghanistan's people, faithful to the national reconciliation policy, to all the commanders who are involved in the war from this place, is to end war, get together to understand the purpose of the enemy and to become united instead of killing each other and bringing troops against each other so that our few young people, if they survive, can begin the reconstruction of this destroyed land. [applause] The past rulers—kings and governments—all concentrated on one policy, a British policy, that is: Divide and rule. However, I tell you that our policy is a path of national unity, national agreement, national reconciliation, friendship, sincerity, and Islamic brotherhood. Why

does this issue have a logic? If we become so scattered, then the goal of Pakistan will be met: A weak and powerless Afghanistan, destroyed and divided. Afghanistan has a 5,000-year history. [passage omitted]

Therefore, I should tell you clearly that when the limited Soviet contingents began their withdrawal first, I declared the national reconciliation policy. We signed the Geneva accords stipulating that the Soviet troops would leave. We calculated and convinced our comrades that tomorrow they will throw them out of Pakistan; and if they leave Pakistan where should they go? Then we announced that a number of nonmilitary zones will be created. I said that I have left Zazi, I have left Chamkani, I left Konarha. They told me that they captured here and there. Yes, I am pleased that you have captured. For, if they throw them out of Pakistan and we do not place them here and then I claim that I follow a policy of reconciliation and embracing, then tomorrow the people will blame me.

You might ask me that during the second time, when the Soviets left for good, why did you hold tight and not give up an inch? I tell you it is because they announced that they will transfer a Pakistani-made government here. If tomorrow such a government be transferred to one of these provinces, then half of the world will officially recognize it while 100 countries have recognized me, around 100. Afghanistan will be divided. Can you allow such a thing, as the sons of your fathers and forefathers? This is the reason that I resist: to free the country from separation. Naturally, it is very difficult. I tell you that such a difficult time has never come to Afghanistan. Never. First, during all the past wars against each aggressor, the nation of Afghanistan was united. Now when we go to war, the nation of Afghanistan is divided into pieces and we fight among each other. It is our own meat in our teeth, unfortunately.

Secondly, during Afghanistan history the deadly weapons used today did not exist. Therefore, conditions are very hard and difficult. Some people are saying—rumors come from among the people from various groups and classes—how patient is he. If we were in his position we would have left already. I do not know, should I leave Afghanistan to be divided and scattered? To be separated? You should tell.

Defense Minister Denies Reports of Discontent

BK1608162889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1617 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, Aug 16 (AFP)—Defence Minister General Shahnawaz Tanay on Wednesday [16 August] denied reports of discontent in the Armed Forces here and said morale in the Afghan Army had never been higher.

Gen. Tanay made his statement in a rare interview with Western reporters six months after the Soviet troop withdrawal and one month after rumours circulated in the capital that he and several other top figures had openly disagreed with President Najibullah.

The disagreements, which have never been officially confirmed, were said to have centred on the defensive posture of the Army in the eastern city of Jalalabad and purported special privileges granted to Mr. Najibullah's special guard unit.

"I can state with the utmost responsibility that never in the past has the morale of the Armed Forces been as high as it is today," said Gen Tanay, a member of the Khalqi faction of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

"There are no grounds whatsoever which would lend credibility to assertions pertaining to the existence of discontent in the Armed Forces as the rights and privileges of all components of the Armed Forces are the same," he added.

The general also said that he believed in the policy of "national reconciliation" proclaimed by Mr. Najibullah.

Further on Tanay Interview

BK1708000789 Hong Kong AFP in English 2020 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, Aug 16 (AFP)—Defence Minister General Shahnawaz Tanay on Wednesday [16 August] denied reports of discontent in the Armed Forces here and said morale in the Afghan Army had never been higher. Gen. Tanay made the statement in a rare interview with Western reporters six months after the Soviet Union withdrew its troops from the country and one month after rumours circulated in the capital that he and several other top figures had openly disagreed with President Najibullah.

The disagreements, which have never been officially confirmed, were said to have centred on the defensive posture of the Army in the eastern city of Jalalabad and purported special privileges granted to Mr. Najibullah's special guard unit. [passage omitted]

The general also said he believed in Mr. Najibullah's policy of "national reconciliation," which emphasizes defense of the country's territorial integrity. The main difference in the government's tactics and those used by the Soviets in their 10 years here was that the Soviet Army was on the offensive and the Afghan Army on the defensive, he said.

The military chief attributed what he described as "severe differences" among mujahidin groups fighting to topple the government to "the crushing blows" of the Afghan Army. "I am of the opinion that the opposition groups can never have a regular organisation and can never be used under a single command," he said. "This is the result of the shattering blows of the Armed Forces which led to severe differences among the opposition." (As he made his announcement, the seven-faction mujahidin interim government based in Peshawar, Pakistan, announced that it had formed a unified command.)

Gen.
stan s Tanay said he believed "the problem of Afghani-
a mili hould be settled through political means" and that
Arme tary solution was not possible, but added that "the
alone d Forces have proved that they independently and
Arme eliminate the opposition groups." It was the
tions d Forces, he said, that "had proved all the estima-
gener and the assumptions of the West wrong." The
had d l also said that fighting throughout the country
that t minished "considerably" in the past months, but
Jalala he eastern border cities of Qandahar, Khowst and
fightir bad were exceptions. He attributed the continued
where g there to its proximity to the Pakistani border,
tion f he said there were huge concentrations of opposi-
orces.

He sa
of the id 60 percent of the Armed Forces were members
Najib PDPA, but that the whole Army under President
PDPA ullah was "fully loyal" to its commander. The
1978, , which has been in power in Afghanistan since
altho is currently dominated by the Parcham faction,
Arme gh the Khalqis are believed to be a majority in the
tions d Forces. Previous fighting between the two fac-
and t has been severe, resulting in hundreds of deaths
here ousands of party members being jailed. Diplomats
Najib said that since the Soviet troop withdrawal, Mr.
betwe ullah has been able to maintain a fair balance
the A en the factions, partly because of his background in
fghan Secret Service.

Muja
***LD17*hidin Leader on Elections, Talks With Kabul**
17 Au08102489 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT
g 89

[Text]
Move] Tehran, Aug. 17, IRNA—Leader of the Islamic
ruled ment of Afghanistan Ayatollah Asef Mohseni has
hidin- out [the] possibility of holding elections in muja-
-held parts of the war-torn country.

The
Augu English daily TEHRAN TIMES Thursday [17
memst] interviewed the ayatollah whose party is a
respo er of Iran-based 8-party alliance. He was
Hezb nding to a proposal by the leader of the Afghan
resen e Eslami, Golbuddin Hekmatyar for electing rep-
counc atives in the mujahidin shura (Council). The
ernme il will carry out the functions of an interim gov-
ent until the Kabul regime is overthrown.

On p
was ossibility of talks with Kabul regime, he said there
that hothing in the way of such talks on the condition
nist g is party "will not be negotiating with any commu-
autho overnment, but only with a representative military
elabo rity illicitly in occupation of Kabul." He did not
the s rate. Ayatollah Mohseni rejected to participate in
repre hura on the grounds that "it is not adequately
group sentative of opinion within the Iran(-based)
electi ing." He said under existing conditions such an
said ion would be "undemocratic and impractical" and
regim it should be postponed until the time the ruling
regim e is overthrown and the groups fighting the present
e are disarmed by the new government.

As for the Takhar incident in which 37 top Afghan commanders killed in a fight between the Hezb-e Eslami and Jamiat-e Islami groups he said such incidents "can only deal a big blow to the revolutionary movement in Afghanistan." He called for a thorough investigation of the incident and punishment of those behind it.

5 Killed in Latest Rocket Attack on Kabul
LD1608170789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Professional murderers associated with the state terrorism of Pakistan fired 51 surface-to-surface rockets last night on the residential and crowded areas of the city of Kabul.

The military section of the BIA reports that black-hearted bats taking advantage of darkness surreptitiously attacked with rockets the residential areas of our compatriots, who recall the sacred uprising and jihad against British colonialists and the backers of the murderers, who once again revealed their hostility toward the independence, territorial integrity, and peace and calm of the war-weary people.

As a result of this act by the murderers and the Pakistani state terrorism's puppets, five of our compatriots, children, women, and men, were martyred and 22 others were wounded. The injured were taken immediately to hospitals and were given serious treatment. This shameful act has caused much material damage.

Bangladesh

President Ershad Returns From Iraq 16 Aug
BK1608131489 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] President Ershad returned to Dhaka Wednesday [16 August] morning, ending his 2-day official visit to Iraq. Vice President Moudud Ahmed, Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed, ministers, diplomats, and high civil and military officials received the president at the airport.

Earlier, President Saddam Husayn and other leaders saw off President Ershad at Baghdad international airport. A guard of honor was also presented.

During formal talks in Baghdad, President Ershad and President Saddam Husayn reiterated their firm determination to strengthen the existing friendly relations between the two brotherly countries.

Foreign Minister Comments on Visit
BK1608163089 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] The visit of President Ershad to Iraq and his talks with President Saddam Husayn will further strengthen the deep bonds of friendship existing between the two countries. This was stated by Foreign Minister Anisul

Islam Mahmud while commenting on the outcome of the 2-day visit in Dhaka today. He said discussions at the highest level covering bilateral and international issues of common interest were extremely useful.

Describing the visit as fruitful, the foreign minister said ties between the two countries have been developing smoothly since the early days of Bangladesh's independence and Iraq was the first Arab nation to recognize our country.

President Ershad has expressed his gratitude to President Saddam Husayn for extending assistance to Bangladesh during the catastrophic floods.

More on Foreign Minister's Remarks

JN1608163289 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 16, INA—President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's visit to Iraq and his talks with President Saddam Husayn would help further strengthen the deep bond of friendhip that exists between the two countries, Bangladesh Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud said here today.

Commenting on the outcome of the two-day visit, he told an INA correspondent that the discussions at the highest level covering bilateral and international issue of common interest were extremely "useful".

Describing the visit as "fruitful," Mr. Mahmud said Bangladesh and Iraq were good friends since the early days of Bangladesh's independence when Iraq was the first Arab country to recognise Bangladesh and the ties between them had since been developing steadily.

The foreign minister said President Ershad had expressed his gratitude to President Saddam Husayn for extending assistance to Bangladesh during the catastrophic floods last year as well as in 1987 like a true friend and brother.

He congratulated President Saddam Husayn for responding to the cause of peace by accepting the United Nations-mediated resolution for a cessation of the prolonged Gulf war.

President Ershad, who visited war-ravaged al-Basrah city, was impressed to see the reconstruction work which also showed Iraq's commitment to the cause of peace. Mr. Mahmud said Iraq wants a lasting peace in the region and disapproves hostilities.

The Bangladesh president also lauded president Saddam Husayn's leadership in clearing the Augean stables, left by the war and his untiring efforts to put the nation back to the track of progress and prosperity.

Mr. Mahmud said the two leaders discussed bilateral issues, regional matters and the international global and economic scenario and found broad identity of views in many an issue. The visit would help forge greater understanding and amity between the two traditional friends, he said.

The foreign minister accompanied President Ershad during the visit. The president returned here this morning from Baghdad.

Mr. Mahmud said President Saddam Husayn warmly received and saw-off President Ershad at airport.

Changes in Government Posts Indicate Early Polls

BK1608020489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0149 GMT 16 Aug 89

[By Golam Tahaboor]

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 16 (AFP)—Changes in top Bangladesh government posts, including the dismissal of the vice president over the weekend, could signal plans to hold an early presidential election, political analysts here say.

President Hussain Mohammad Ershad dismissed Nurul Islam, a former justice, as vice president on Saturday, and named Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed to the number two post.

General Ershad gave no reason for the dismissal of Mr. Islam, who had served as vice president since 1986, but analysts said the president may be planning to groom Mr. Ahmed as a potential running-mate in a snap presidential poll.

Mr. Ahmed was replaced as prime minister by one of Bangladesh's three deputy prime ministers, Kazi Zafar Ahmed, who heads the Information Ministry and has served as a political advisor to Mr. Ershad.

The changes were followed by the resignation Monday of another deputy prime minister, Abdul Matin, for unexplained reasons.

The moves have given rise to speculation here that Mr. Ershad, who seized power in a bloodless coup in 1982 and is Bangladesh's longest-serving president, may be paving the way for mid-term presidential elections.

Mr. Ershad was elected to a five-year term in a controversial presidential election in October 1986 that was largely boycotted by the opposition.

The changes in the leadership came one month after he signed an amendment to the Constitution which provides for simultaneous election of the country's vice president as the running mate of the president.

The amendment was sponsored by the ruling party and passed by Parliament on July 10.

The vice president has previously been appointed by the president.

The legislation, which takes effect March 1, 1991 unless put into force earlier by executive order, would also limit the presidency to two five-year terms.

Political and diplomatic observers said Mr. Ershad might call a snap presidential election under the amended Constitution in the near future.

They said such a vote could help erase the misgivings among the population about the 1986 election and could also make Mr. Ershad eligible to run for two fresh five-year presidential terms.

Bangladesh's major opposition parties, the Awami League of Sheikh Hasina Wajed and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Begum Khaleda Zia, have boycotted most of the previous elections held under Mr. Ershad, saying they were fraudulent and no balloting under him could be free and fair.

The BNP and Awami League rejected the July constitutional amendment as "yet another trick" by Mr. Ershad to cling to power.

The opposition has repeatedly demanded that the president resign and hand over power to a neutral caretaker government which could conduct free and fair elections in Bangladesh.

Observers said Mr. Ershad may hold a presidential election later this year or in early 1990 with the newly appointed vice president as his running mate.

They said a snap election could be an attempt to restore credibility to the electoral process in Bangladesh, where no elected president or parliament has served a full term because of military coups or other reasons.

10 Persons Killed in Chittagong Bomb Blast

BK1708084889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] In Bangladesh, at least 10 persons have been killed and 40 injured when two bombs exploded in the Chittagong Hills yesterday. One of the blasts occurred in a crowded market at (Khagragachi) and the other in a passenger boat at Rangamati.

India

Gandhi Addresses Domestic, Foreign Policy Issues

BK1608163689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] The prime minister has said that the biggest challenge facing the country today is the threat to its unity, integrity, and stability. Addressing the Congress-I Parliamentary Party [CPPI] in New Delhi today, Mr Rajiv Gandhi warned that if this challenge is not met, the country will weaken and disintegrate. He reiterated that there would be no compromise with those forces inside and outside the country which are trying to erode its independence. He said there will also be no comprise on the principle of secularism and the goal of eradication of poverty.

Briefing newsmen on the deliberations, the CPPI secretaries, Mr P.N. Sukla, Mr Uttam Rathar, and R.P. Panikar, said Mr Gandhi regretted that the opposition does not address itself to these challenges. He said that the magic wand that is guiding the opposition today is compromised and such compromises would destroy the country. He specifically asked the communist parties whether they would compromise their principles and ideology with communalist, secessionist, and obscurantist.

The prime minister said the resignation of the opposition members from the Lok Sabha has not hurt the Congress party, but has hurt democracy and their own constituents.

Mr Gandhi said the highest priority has been given to the removal of unemployment and the eradication of poverty. The status of women and minority, welfare of the weaker sections, including scheduled castes and tribes, and the role of the youth are also high on the agenda.

On the international front, Mr Gandhi said India's position in the world in recent years has risen to new height and it is now acknowledged as a power that matters and a country that cannot be pushed around.

Soviet Vice President Speaks at Agra Reception

BK1708091089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] The Soviet vice president, Mrs Valentina Shevchenko, has said that the Indo-Soviet friendship has greatly contributed toward world peace.

Speaking at a reception hosted by the Indo-Soviet Cultural Society in Agra last night, Mrs Shevchenko said the Delhi Declaration signed by Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Mr Mikhail Gorbachev outlines the determination of the two countries to root out nuclear warfare and establish world peace.

Mrs Shevchenko said she is impressed by the pace of development in India.

Implications of EEC Integration Reviewed in Delhi

BK1208041889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] India and France have agreed to set up a subcommittee to jointly meet the challenges that might arise out of the economic integration of the European Community by 1992. The agreement was reached during discussions between India's commerce minister, Mr Dinesh Singh,

and the French minister of state for planning, Mr Lionel Stoleru, in New Delhi yesterday. Mr Stoleru who is currently in New Delhi in connection with the Indo-French seminar on planning said he will convey to his government India's concern about the implications of this development on exports from developing countries.

5 Killed in Clashes; 350 Houses Burned in Assam

BK1708005889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0035 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] In Assam, five persons have been killed and several others were injured in fresh incidents of violence in Mangaldoi and Khairabari areas of Darrang District. Two were killed in police firing and three in group clashes. The state home minister, Mr Brighu Kumar Pukhan, after visiting the affected areas yesterday told our Guwahati correspondent that miscreants set on fire 350 houses in several villages. The Army, which was called out to assist the civil administration staged flag marches in the affected areas. Additional security forces have been rushed to the area.

A powerful bomb exploded in a hotel at Fancy Bazaar in Guwahati, injuring one person seriously. The governor, Mr Harideo Joshi, has appealed to the people to work for restoring peace and normalcy. He said since the date and venue of the tripartite talks have been announced all concerned should help maintain law and order.

Meanwhile, the situation in the riot-hit Gohpur area is stated to be under control. Army staged flag marches in a number of villages to restore confidence among the people.

7 Persons Injured in Kashmir Grenade Explosion

BK1608164189 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] In Kashmir valley, seven persons, including three CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] personnel, were injured when a grenade was thrown at a patrol party in Anantnag Town today. According to agency reports, people in most parts of the Kashmir valley observed a hartal [strike] today to protest against the recent violence in the border township of Leh.

Record Yields Expected in Food Production

BK1308093589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] Good monsoon in most parts of the country has brightened prospects of a record yield for the second year in succession. The target of 175 million tonnes is likely to be exceeded. Our correspondent says given the annual growth of 3 to 3.5 percent in food production, it may touch 180 million tonnes this year. This will mark an enormous improvement over last year's record production of 172 million tonnes. Our correspondent further says that the monsoon initially played torrent with rice bowl of Punjab and Haryana, but it has since given good rains in Punjab. Since these two stat
[Uttar Pradesh] have good irriga tes and western UP groundwater resources, not much da ation facilities and paddy cultivation. Reports say Saura amage is expected to very good rains this season and the gashtra region has had has largely benefited from the rain groundnut crop there pointer for a better oilseeds product fall. This is another tion this year.

59 Kg Heroin Seized in Jammu; 1 Arrested

BK1708051289 Delhi Domestic Serv vice in English 0240 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Customs authorities in Jam
kilograms of heroin valued at 59 mu have seized 59 international market. The contrab crore rupees in the from a village last night with the he band was recovered One person was arrested in this con elp of Punjab police. nnection.

Paper Asks Ministers To Restra in Language

BK1108141989 Delhi PATRIOT in English 1 Aug 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Leaders Without Restra aint"]

[Text] Union Industries Minister J
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N.T Vengala Rao called [Central Intelligence Agency] agent T. Rama Rao a "CIA chosen to describe the opposition t". And now he has These charges do no more than p as "anti-national". climate. The elected Chief Minister pollute the political the government because Mr Venga remains the head of has no means of proving his acc ala Rao presumably substantiate his allegation he would b cusation. If he can alleged agent of a foreign agenc have done so and the remained the Chief Minister. Norm cy would not have should not have merited an edito ally, such allegations today, as things stand, values, princ rial comment. But, have taken a back seat and politics h ciples and ideologies and vulgarised that the level of as been so trivialised reduced to a slanging match of a political debate is kind. What is distressing is that at t particularly vicious tion and, even in the absence of it the slightest provoca-party leaders and their less known it, some over-zealous making abusive onslaughts on their lieutenants are seen Mr A.B.A. Ghani Khan Chowdhur opponents. The way dent in West Bengal] has been ca y [Congress-I presi-Bengal for some time now against ampaigning in West ernment (calling upon people to b the Left Front Gov-take up sten-guns, kill Marxists and burn police vehicles, some reports are to be believed) and bury them alive, if either to Mr Chowdhury or to the n hardly do any good Priya Ranjan Das Munshi [union Congress Party. Mr commerce] has even reportedly sug minister of state for sition leaders should be shot by th gested that the oppo-distance of 25 km to prove the effic e Bofors gun from a senior leaders are not above using cacy of the gun. Even against their political adversaries. It demeaning lang age allege that the opposition had hel t serves no purpose to spired to kill Indira Gandhi. If th lped those who con-tinue, the next general elections ma is is allowed to con-ay prove to have been

very violent. Real issues may be relegated to the background and exciting rhetoric may well become the vehicle of the campaign. It is time the responsible party leaders moved quickly to restrain the fire-eating colleagues. But it is probably asking for a great deal at a time when democratic decencies are in short supply.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani To Take Oath in Majlis 17 Aug

LD1608141189 Tehran IRNA in English 1358 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 16, IRNA—President-elect 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani will take oath in the open session of the Majlis on Thursday [17 August], according to a report.

The daily KEYHAN quoting a Majlis source said Hashemi-Rafsanjani would introduce his cabinet to the Majlis for approval on Sunday.

In the Majlis itself a member of the secretariat had said that the cabinet "most probably" would be introduced after Hashemi-Rafsanjani took oath on Thursday. Hojjat ol-Eslam Asadollah Bayat was speaking during debate on a bill which would allow 20 deputies to speak for or against ministerial nominations, double the previous number.

Meanwhile 130 Majlis deputies signed a petition praising outgoing Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi and his cabinet, KEYHAN reported. "We, the representatives of the people... thank you for your taintless services in the crucial eight years of your premiership for protecting the achievements of the Islamic revolution and consolidating the Islamic Republic of Iran," they said.

A number of ministers are expected to remain in their posts or shift to new positions in Hashemi-Rafsanjani's cabinet.

The Majlis on Wednesday voted for Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi as speaker, following Hashemi-Rafsanjani's resignation.

Takes Oath of Office

LD1708063289 Tehran IRNA in English 0600 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 17, IRNA—Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani took the oath office as the fourth president of the Islamic Republic in the Majlis Thursday.

"I welcome this responsibility with all my heart," said Hashemi-Rafsanjani after reading the oath according to the constitution in front of deputies and other senior officials.

"Finally all factors combined and pushed me out of the Majlis and sent me (to a position) with a bigger responsibility in terms of executive affairs and being answerable to (the people,)" said the former Majlis speaker.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani was elected by nearly 95 percent of the vote in the July 28 presidential election and was given enhanced powers when people also voted for constitutional changes on the same day.

The president said he would introduce his cabinet as soon as the Majlis passes a bill on the procedure for a debate of ministerial nominees.

The bill is expected to go through all legislative stages on Saturday [19 August], paving the way for deputies to express their views on the nominees—who need a majority vote to be confirmed—on Sunday.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i officially stepped down as president seven weeks sooner than the end of his term. "I will start my work as president of the Islamic Republic of Iran today," he said.

In a memorable forthright speech, Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed as in his campaign pledge that the most important task would be create the grounds for greater economic activity to improve living standards of the masses.

"It is not right to safeguard the (nation) with the hungry poor people marching forward and giving their life. It cannot go on like this," he said.

He said he understood the concern expressed by the leader and other officials that people should not expect better economic conditions overnight.

But the government had to start work now for "people who left the election voting queue to join the queue to get their living needs."

"Our people are not that stupid that you may think they would want us to suddenly (deliver on promises) from tomorrow. It won't be that way," the president said.

"...But we have our factories have [as received] a very high output capacity and the workers are being paid without doing anything... we must definitely start operately these factories.

"I am telling you this now. I have said this before. If the people wanted something other than this they would not have voted for me.

"You too, the Majlis deputies, would not have asked me to take this responsibility if you did not agree with what I'm saying.

"We have go [as received] after this issue. The immediate thing we can do is to provide facilities (to boost the economy).

"Preserving the ideals of our revolution at any cost is our limit. (Within that) we have to think how to get these factories running...

"We have make a serious effort. There are plenty of opportunities in this country."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani firmly rejected the idea that what the Islamic Republic needed was purely political independence. Independence could only have real meaning if the country was economically strong, he stressed.

"We have a constitution. We make it a pledge to implement it but not just one aspect of it, like guarding our borders and political independence. We must secure economic independence too.

"Can we be independent without productivity? Do we always have to get our wheat, meat, industrial parts and machinery and expert manpower from others?

"If so we have nothing, neither political independence nor economic independence. We have nothing."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's speech was broadcast live on a the special Majlis radio channel as he addressed the deputies and guests, including the late Imam Khomeyni's son Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni.

Judiciary chief Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, members of the Council of Guardians, outgoing Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi and members of his cabinet, as well as Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and foreign diplomats in Tehran were also present.

Speaking three days before the first anniversary of the ceasefire in the Iraqi war, the president and acting armed forces commander in chief promised to try to avoid another war.

"It is one of our duties to make an effort so that war will not break out. If they create it, we will defend as we did (for almost eight years).

"We must try to stop the outbreak of war, that is we must politically move in a way that a war will not happen... so that we can take care of the other aspects of our constitution."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani condemned the Pahlavi regime which was toppled in the 1979 Islamic revolution for failing to tap the rich resources of the country and wasting Iran's wealth.

But he said bluntly: "When we came, we weren't able to do anything for the country either because of the conditions they created for us."

He called on Iranians abroad to return to the country and help his economic revival plan. "Those who are abroad... and are afraid to come, should know that if they are sincere and want to come here to serve or even to have a healthy life without wanting to serve, their rights are protected.

"I have taken oath to protect the rights of the people, except those who are traitors."

The president said as a principle he would have a broad view in accepting help for the implementation of his policies. There would be no political favors, he said.

"I certainly do not intend to choose or reject this or that person on political and factional grounds."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said he might of had to choose between two competent persons to fill a cabinet post but this did not mean that he would reject anyone because of political differences.

He said except in "two or three" cases ministerial nominations had been finalized and he was prepared to face a Majlis debate at the first opportunity, probably Sunday.

He said some present ministers had refused to join his administration but he would try to make use of all of them in some capacity. He would welcome the support and cooperation of all Iranians.

"No one must sit aside. There is so much work that even if all of our Hezbollahi forces start working, we would need help from outside, especially from Iranians who are abroad and we are interested in them coming and working with us in all fields."

He said times were "very different from the past" and there was more room for work. "Even those who are isolated in this or that corner can come into the arena and the door for work is open to them," he vowed.

He said the enemies of the Islamic Republic had received a serious setback in their hope of seeing Iran fall apart after the death of Imam Khomeyni in June. "The race is now on for cooperation with us but we will never be tricked by these games. Our eyes are open. We will do what's best for the interest of our revolution.

Karrubi, Yazdi Speak at Ceremony

LD1708120189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani today attended the Majlis and the presidential swearing-in ceremony, thereby officially becoming president of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI]. The Central News Unit reports that attending Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's oath-taking ceremony were Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, the esteemed son of his holiness the

imam—may his deeds be approved by the Almighty; representative of Grand Ayatollah Araki, Mr Yazdi, head of the judiciary; Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili; Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi and cabinet members; members of the Council of Guardians; members of the Supreme Judicial Council; commanders of security and armed forces of the IRI; Sahebzadeh Yaqub Khan, the Pakistani foreign minister; and ambassadors and foreign diplomatic envoys in Tehran.

Mr Karrubi, the Majlis speaker, pointed to the political and combative character of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjai. He said: He was present on all scenes, and in the era before and during the revolution he spared no effort and sacrifice along the path of the revolution. He always enjoyed the special attention of the great leader of the revolution. He added: He is an intelligent person, knowledgeable in Islam, an interpreter of the Koran, a thoughtful manager, competetent and resourceful, and an intelligent politician. In the 10 years since the victory of the revolution, the most fundamental and important tasks of the country rested on his shoulders. His great and useful experience gained during that period can prove very useful and effective for his starting this work.

Mr Karrubi continued by pointing to conspiracies aimed at raising expectations to an unacceptable level, while emphasizing that the people have the right to expect that social and economic problems be resolved. He added: Our people are aware of the means, problems, abilities and sincere efforts of officials. They must as before nullify conspiracies with their vigilance. At the end of his speech the Majlis speaker emphasized the need for readiness by the Majlis to cooperate with the president and advise him on resolving the society's problems, and on the ratification of revolutionary, Islamic and popular plans and bills.

Later in the ceremony, attended by many foreign and domestic reporters and photographers, Mr Yazdi, head of judicial branch, pointed to the sensitive role of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani during the past years in the management of the country, particularly in Majlis affairs. He said: Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani has always worked to safeguard the interests of the system, and this characteristic has been observed in him on numerous occasions. He then pointed to the new conditions in the country, adding: People have certain expectations from the country's officials, particularly officials from the executive organs. However, such expectations should not encompass some kind of miracle. The elevation of the people's level of expectations is harmful. He added: However, in view of the new means at the country's disposal, it can be expected that some problems may be resolved by the officials.

Commentary on Problems Facing New President
NC1608175289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Central News Unit research group commentary]

[Text] In the name of God. As the time approaches for the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran to take oath of office and discussions about a new cabinet are taking place, the most important issues facaing the new government are being assessed and weighed by news circles.

The election of the Islamic Republic of Iran's president by more than 15.5 million votes of the Iranian nation—along with effective amendments to the Constitution—brought about a complete change in the conditions prevailing in the country because of an end to the imposed war.

During the past few years, a major impediment to the smooth functioning of the country's executive system was the multiplicity of decision-making bodies and the lack of a centralization of power in a particular individual and now, with the approval of the constitutional amendments by the Iranian nation, this hindrance has been removed.

Naturally, with the election of a new president, the country's problems and solutions will head his and the new cabinet's agenda. The greatest problem facing the country at present is the economic situation and its concomitant stagnation and inflation. For an assessment of this outstanding national problem and the manner in which the people's expectations may be satisfied in this regard, we should review salient topics:

First, we should examine our present economic situation. By diagnosing our major economic problems, we should embark on an intensive evaluation of the reasons for these problems in Iranian society. Second, we should attempt to seek and implement proper ways of resolving them.

In some interviews given by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi- Rafsanjani, prior to his elections, he gave an appraisal of these two subjects. Prior to an analysis of these we should pay attention to some points. First, economic difficulties can only be resolved within the framework of planning and implementation of fundamental programs and the accomplishment of this objective requires time. In fact, the completion of principled tasks depends on the time factor. Second, expectations for resolving economic problems should be reasonable and appropriate.

Iran's economic problems stem from various factors, part of which have their origins in the pre-revolution period and the remainder in the post-revolution period which is characterized by various plots by world oppression against the Islamic revolution of Iran. These factors combined to create the present economic conditions in the country.

In any case, if serious decisions are not made to resolve the country's economic problems in a principled manner, the rate of population growth will further aggravate the present economic malaise and future attempts to alleviate it will become extremely difficult.

It appears tha at the new president of the Islamic Republic of Iran is end dowed with greater possibilities and power than in the past for the resolving of the country's economic dil lemma. In addition to the increase in the legal powers c of the president, the two plans proposed for reconstructio n—the first of which has nearly passed through its a approval stages—will provide conditions conducive to battle the country's economic woes.

The basic ob bjective of the country's first plan is to expand indus strial and agricultural production and reinforce the cou untry's economic foundations. With their extensive par rticipation in the elections and their continued presen nce on the scene in the future, the people have been ful lfilling their obligations to the utmost and continue to do so. This dazzling presence makes the task of the preside nt and the other officials in resolving of the country's dil lemmas less formidable. The Iranian nation—with its decade of resistance against its enemies' plots, which has provided motivation for the Iranian nation to atta in economic independence—does not have any greater e expectations from the current president except for fur rther efforts in this regard.

Solving econo omic problems should be undertaken within an infrastruct ture for the attainment of self-sufficiency based on gr reater use of national capabilities and domestic pote entials. In any case, in view of the circumstances currre ently prevailing in the country and the expansion of t the president's legal powers, greater attention to plann ning, an end to the war, and the overwhelming vot te of the Iranian nation for Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, as well as his personal attributes—all can contribute to bringing about a brighter future for the Islamic Reput blic of Iran in resolving its problems, especially the econ nomic difficulties, in the long term.

Velayati Ret urns From Syria, Comments on Talks
NC1708061898 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Mr Ve layati, our foreign minister, returned to Tehran last n night after visiting Syria to convey Mr Hashemi-Rafs sanjani's message to Mr Hafiz al-Asad and to hold talks with the combatant Lebanese and Palestinian groups. On his arrival in Tehran, Mr Velayati spoke to a Ce entral News Unit correspondent. On the outcome of hi is visit to Syria, he said: Two rounds of talks, one pri vate and the other open, were held with Syrian Foreig gn Minister Mr Faruq al-Shar', and a lengthy meetin ng was held with 21 combatant Muslim national and P Palestinian groups with the participation of the Syrian fore eign minister in Damascus.

Our country's foreign minister continued: This is the second session of its kind. The first, held in Tehran at the end of the mon th of Tir [22 June-22 July], was attended by various Lebane ese and Palestinian groups, but Syria was not present. Th his time, we wanted Syria to attend as well. The second session was more comprehensive and went according to plan. To follow up the decisions adopted at this session, a special committee has been set up.

He added: The third session will take place soon. While stressing that there is no solution except through the unity of the various Lebanese groups under one banner, Mr Velayati expressed the hope that in the near future we may witness a strong Lebanon and a government approved by the majority of the people, so that they may be liberated from foreign mercenaries such as Michel 'Awn and the agents of Zionism and the United States.

Mr Velayati then added: In my meeting with Mr Hafiz al-Asad, there was a discussion of bilateral ties and regional issues. President-elect Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's invitation to visit Tehran was conveyed to Mr Hafiz al-Asad and the visit will take place in the near future.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Begins 3-Day Visit
LD1608141589 Tehran IRNA in English 1410 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 16, IRNA—Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan arrived here Wednesday [16 August] for talks on regional and international issues.

"Latest development in Afghanistan will also be discussed with the Iranian officials," he told reporters upon arrival.

The coming Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit in Belgrade and the General Assembly of the United Nations are among other topics to be raised during talks in the three-day visit, he said.

First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati welcomed Yaqub Khan at the airport.

Arrival Remarks Cited
BK1708042889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan says that during his stay in Tehran, he will hold detailed talks with Iranian leaders. He said this while speaking to newsmen after arriving in Tehran on a 2-day visit to Iran at the invitation of the Iranian foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati. He said his visit to Tehran has great significance in (?promoting) mutual understanding in bilateral relations and the overall situation in the region on which both the countries are greatly interested. The Afghanistan situation will be specially considered. He said his talks with the Iranian leaders will be of special significance to the forthcoming nonaligned summit in Belgrade and the next meeting of the UN General Assembly. He said that on these two occasions Pakistan and Iran will work with close contacts and cooperation with each other.

Tehran Radio Reports on Bush News Conference

LD1608113389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] While about 20 days have passed since the terrorist act of the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd by the Israeli regime's commandos, U.S. President Bush has accused Iran of supporting terrorism. The U.S. President was speaking at a news conference. Concerning military actions to free Western hostages, he said that if the release of the hostages was possible and practical through military actions, he would embark on such an action. He considered that the lack of necessary information at the United States disposal was the obstacle to military action. Bush, without referring to the U.S. stand toward the terrorist action of the Zionist regime in kidnapping Shaykh 'Ubayd, implicitly confirmed this action and remarked that the United States has no desire to bring Shaykh 'Ubayd to trial or prosecute him.

Commentary Says Bush Seeking 'New Signs'

LD1608205289 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Mr George Bush repeats his statements. Once again today news agencies, quoting the U.S. President, reported that he is looking for new signs from the Islamic Republic's president, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, concerning Iran's assistance in the release of the American hostages from Lebanon.

The news agencies say Mr Bush has said: In case Iran is willing to establish ties with the United States, she has to produce signs of assistance to the United States. Repeated statements by Mr Bush were made exactly 1 day after the decree [as heard] of statement of the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i, in which the leader of the Islamic Republic had openly announced the views of the Islamic Iran regarding Iran-U.S. ties.

According to Bush's words, we conclude that there exist no logic within the U.S. ruling system. The Americans still imagine that the revolutionary Iran should beg in order to establish ties with them, while the leaders of Islamic Iran have repeatedly stated that this Islamic country does not find it necessary to establish relations with the United States unless the latter changes its views about the Islamic revolution and restores Iran's assets and (?credits).

Another point which the Americans still don't understand is the issue of the American captives in Lebanon and release of Iran's assets in the United States. The fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran is willing to help the United States or any other country in releasing one or more citizens of theirs while being held hostage is not related to the illegal freezing of billions of dollars of assets by the United States which belong to Iran.

We think that the United States [words indistinct] of establishment of ties with Iran. In this case America's logic is force and when a superpower disregards international regulations and resorts to force against a revolutionary country, which revolutionary logic permits establishment of relations without illogical bullying. [sentence as heard] The Americans, as confirmed by NEW YORK TIMES recent article, interferes in Iran's internal affairs openly in sending spies to Iran which is exactly against the Algiers (?treaty) in which the United States has promised not to interfere in the Islamic Iran's affairs.

Imam Khomeyni—may his soul rest in peace—has said that the U.S. relations with Iran resemble the relations between a wolf and a sheep. When these Americans bully Iran in sending spies to Iran and freeze Iran's assets or confiscate military equipment, the price of which has already been paid, how do they expect the Islamic Iran to help them?

The leaders of the Islamic Republic have announced repeatedly that not only they are against taking of innocent people as hostage but also decisively oppose endangering of the lives of innocent individuals.

Another point mentioned by the Iran's authorities is that Iran is not involved in hostage-takings and relates this action to Lebanon's lawful [as heard] groups. Therefore, Iran is not neither able to give orders to them nor is willing to do so; since this matter is not related to the Islamic Iran at all.

However, Iran's president-elect, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, has said that in order to reach a conclusion the United States should change its views about Iran, release Iran's assets and restore Iran's purchased military equipment.

If Mr Bush considers these signs as the Islamic Iran's surrender to the U.S. bullying, this is an illogical and antirevolutionary imagination. Whereas Iran has many friends who respect her views.

KEYHAN Derides U.S. Threats to Lebanon, Iran

PM1608155589 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 5 Aug 89 p 2

[Editorial: "The United States Cannot Do a Damn Thing"]

[Text] U.S. and Western news agencies have printed extensive articles within the past few days on the issue of the Shaykh 'Ubayd kidnapping and the execution of Colonel Higgins by the Organization of the Oppressed on Earth. This has formed the basis of their news coverage. In passing, they have also clearly mentioned U.S. threats against Muslim areas in Lebanon and economic targets in Iran. U.S. officials have also been playing the "carrot and stick" game—on the one hand noting the possibility of an attack against Lebanon and economic centers in

Iran, on the other hand speaking of a message George Bush has sent to Iran expressing his pleasure at the creation of appropriate conditions to establish ties with Iran.

Our aim in this short editorial is not to talk about the tricks of the Western propaganda machines with regard to Shaykh 'Ubayd, Higgins' execution, and the whole hostage issue in Lebanon and their efforts to link these to Iran. The main point is that these American "carrots and sticks" will not fool our officials or our people. They will not be able to force a degrading relationship on us. The strong words and the bluffs and the boasts of the inexperienced U.S. President and his colleagues will not shake the strong and steadfast hearts of our people and our leadership.

It would be better if Mr Bush—before making such dangerous decisions for which he does not have enough experience—studied the past of his two predecessors, Reagan and Carter, to see just how successful these two presidents were in their struggle against the Islamic revolution, and just what they achieved for U.S. imperialism.

We think it would be highly unlikely that the Americans would forget the entire understanding of the past decade which is: Any aggression against the Islamic revolution makes it more popular with the masses. So it would be highly unlikely that they would undertake military action against Lebanon or Iran. But, if they do, they can try their luck in Lebanon and Iran once again and put their gains and achievements on show for the people to see.

The contemporary Islamic movement which has its base in Iran is able, because of its strong political and cultural power, to take its message to the people without any hostility involved, taking and capturing the entire power base of aggressive and imperialistic forces. The Islamic movement has learned however that if any of these aggressive powers start any type of hostility, it has to stand firm as long as necessary. Even though this resistance may be very expensive, it will bring great victory in terms of morale and spirit to the peoples of the world.

In general, the principle of hostilities between the United States—symbol of aggression—and Iran—symbol of struggle against aggression and support for the oppressed—is considered to be a great victory for the Islamic revolution. The imam's great sentence: America cannot do a damn thing, has its roots in this same principle.

ETTELA'AT: Relations With U.S. Unwanted

LD1608155789 Tehran IRNA in English 1425 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 16 IRNA—Iran did not want relations with the U.S. because it condoned terrorist acts by the Zionists against its own preaching, the daily ETTELA'AT said Wednesday.

"(The U.S. Government) acts like a riff-raff and a hoodlum shouting like a drunken bully, scaring people away, and taking the whole world as a corner street spot or a seized turnpike at which to extort passers-by," it said in an editorial.

It said the U.S. had frozen Iranian assets in American banks for the past 10 years, regularly condoned kidnapping and other acts of terrorism by Israel, and always vetoed U.N. resolutions against Tel Aviv.

Also reminding that the U.S. Navy shot down an Iranian passenger plane on July 3, 1988, killing 290 passengers, it said a government with such performance could therefore not be trusted as a partner in any relations.

The daily said Iran did not expect other nations to have precisely identical thoughts and ideologies with the people and government of Iran in absolutely every area.

But Tehran expects that in international relations all governments and nations respect at least the basic principles to which they claim to adhere.

ETTELA'AT said the U.S. had evidently failed to practice what it preached because as much as it condemned terrorism as a crime, it never included Israeli terrorism.

Tehran TV Commentary on Relations With West

NC1108193089 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1615 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Commentary from the "Weekly Report" feature]

[Text] Some of the cables reaching Tehran recently are messages to the officials of the Islamic Republic. In most of these one can see the common factor of congratulations for the new president and wishes that he will be successful in his mission.

Among these cables, we see the names of presidents and heads of various states. Some of them are countries that have had close relations with Iran for years and that stood next to the Iranian nation at difficult times in the sacred defense or at each moment of difficulty. Some of them are governments that had a hand in the fire from afar. Only when they saw all their interests ensured did they make brief statements and adopt stands according to the exigencies of the day. Finally, the third group are governments which, throughout the past decade, hoisted their banner of hatred and animosity and are now trying to start new relations.

Definitely, it is an international tradition to send messages when the head of a state is changed. However, for the Iran of today—which has passed through many difficult years and which was alone in many of those moments—for an Iran which, in the saddest days of its

tragedy, saw some of these nations refrain from extending even a simple message of sympathy, the messages of congratulations by some of these countries are extremely meaningful.

As an example, we can refer to the message from French President Francois Mitterand, to the statement by the British Government, to the remarks by the EEC, or to the messages from some heads of Middle East countries. Frankly speaking, what is on the minds of these countries under Iran's current circumstances, and what has made them resort to new reactions? Especially, why are the western countries trying to display in any way possible their readiness to improve their relations with Iran?

Definitely some of these turn back to Iran's strategic position. According to all international calculations, if the world's oil production continues at this rate, after 25 years only four countries—Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia—will remain oil-producing countries, and the oil of most OPEC members as well as that in the North Sea will be depleted. At that time, the situation of oil-producing countries will be extremely strategic. In a world where the lack of oil stops the wheels of many industries and where the production of many important petrochemical products depends on the element of oil, this is an extremely important issue. Thus, the conditions that will emerge are that the oil-producing countries in the second decade of the 21st century will move with great strength. Thus, Iran is extremely valuable for the world today.

Iran can also be assessed from the dimension of the world's political strategies. For the West, an Islamic Iran on its side can definitely be effective in solving many of the Middle East's problems. For the West, the revolution is the volcano of a nation. At such times, one should try to extinguish this fire in any way possible. Definitely if an independent and Islamic Iran can strengthen all its positions and, at the same time, continue to move against the masked plunderer of the West, the anti-West volcano of the area will be much stronger than this. And this is the reason why the westerners try, sometimes with smiles and sometimes with the language of bullets, to prevent Iran from erupting.

Another reason why Iran is currently significant for westerners concerns Iranian-Soviet relations. For the West, Moscow has always been a strong rival around which it has tried to draw a fence. Now the West feels that it has stayed behind in this rivalry between the East and West concerning relations with Iran. For them it is significant to see where the continuation of Iranian-Soviet relations will lead Tehran's stances on world issues. And it is exactly because of this that they are trying to accelerate the process of renewing their relations with Iran.

Another significance of Iran today concerns its immense domestic resources. Iran is a country of 51 million which is extremely attractive because of its vastness, the variety of its minerals, and the fact that one-third of this vast land is arid and ready to be tilled. Also, because of the damage inflicted by the imposed war, a large part of the country needs reconstruction, and this can be very significant for foreign companies. This is something that has made Tehran, since the acceptance of Resolution 598, witness the arrival of foreign economic relations.

According to forecasts by the Development and Cooperation Bank, as of this year all western countries will face an era of stagnation. Thus the existence of markets which can be used to keep their companies going becomes an extremely important issue. Therefore, from this point of view, Iran's significance and having suitable relations with it take on special importance.

All these are reasons which push various countries toward better and more relations; the West is not an exception to this rule.

However, along with all these issues which show Iran's success, we should also note one point, and this is that on the basis of the West's calculations, the past years were years of confrontation with Iran in all aspects in a bid to exhaust the revolution. The West believes that this has now come to fruition. Meanwhile, the West thinks that the imam's absence creates favorable grounds for encouraging Iran to change the basic policies of the revolution. Therefore, they want to improve relations with Iran, even without glancing at the record of their acts. The clearest expalanation was possibly given by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas during his visit to Tehran. When he was asked what France is doing with its past, he said: I have come to talk about the future. This is the method that all Western countries pursue in their foreign relations. But the principles of Iran's foreign policy—as stated by Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the revolution—are definitely the same as those pursued during the time of the imam. And no one has the least doubt that in the principles of foreign policy—which are equality in relations and the absence of hegemony—we can never forget that we should assess the past and present acts of nations and that we should especially heed their motives. The extent to which relations with countries in the East and West should be established depends precisely on the change in their behavior and on whether they will make up for their past acts.

In a world where there are so many rivalries and economic groupings, Iran can definitely ensure its necessities and continue the path of its development. The era when one country had an upper hand in the economy has ended. Therefore, all countries which want to establish relations with the Iranian people because of strategic objectives or regional goals should first change their political behavior; otherwise, sending a message which is coupled with a heart full of hatred will not lead anywhere.

Geography Protocol Signed With Soviet Union

LD1608214989 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] A protocol for cooperation in the fields of survey and geography has been signed between Iran and the Soviet Union.

Head of geography and (?remote sensing) organization affiliated to the Ministry of Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps announced this in an interview with the reporters, saying the protocol of cooperation was signed, following the general agreement of the leaders of the two countries of Iran and USSR, between geography and (?remote sensing) organization of the Islamic Revolution's Organization. Soon a delegation from the Soviet Satellite Research and Products Organization will visit Iran in order to sign the final agreement, the official added.

Khamene'i Receives Children of Martyrs

LD1608113489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Excerpt] More than 2,000 children of martyrs, who have been recognized as outstanding students in the country's schools, together with the cultural deputy of the Islamic Revolution's Martyrs' Foundation, members of headquarters in charge of planning for the cultural affairs of the children of martyrs, officials from the cultural department of the Martyrs' Foundation in provincial centers, as well as a group from Pakistan's Imamiyeh Students Association, were received by Ayatollah Khamene'i this morning.

During the meeting the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran pointed to extensive efforts by news agencies associated with international Zionism, to deal blows to the revolution and to the Islamic Republic of Iran. He graciously stated: The most important ploy of world arrogance is the nature of its propaganda. Today, the political and propaganda planners of the world have devised careful propaganda plans in relation to our country, our nation, our government, and each of our officials, while international Zionist and arrogant news agencies are likewise engaged in propaganda against us in a calculated manner. Therefore, our nation must be completely vigilant in the face of the propaganda ploys of the enemies of Islam.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i went on to note the effect of the blood of martyrs in strengthening our country's Islamic system. He added: The magnificence and the spiritual strength of our Islamic system and Muslim nation of Iran before the eyes of global arrogance emanates from these martyrdoms. The children and the esteemed families of martyrs should know that their loved ones brought about the magnificence and pride of Islam and our nation by their blesssed blood. He then pointed out that today Islam has made all the centers of satanic power throughout the world tremble. He graciously said: The memory and the name of our great imam rocks the palaces and the hearts of decadent powers because he was the servant of Islam and of Muslims, and it was he who brought greatness to Islam and the Muslims with his struggles and those of his nation.

The leader of the Islamic revolution then emphasized that weak nations should discover their real strength, graciously stating: The arrogant powers have no regard for the Islamic and oppressed nations' right to exist and to choose, not considering such nations as the rightful owners of their own resources and wealth. One cannot confront satanic powers from a position of weakness, because they have no mercy for the weak. Therefore, the nations must strengthen themselves and discover real strength. This can only happen with faith and practice in the path of God until the point of struggle and martyrdom.

The leader of the Islamic Revolution mentioned the point that the arrogant world today is forced to tolerate Islam and the Islamic Republic. He also pointed to the duty of the families of martyrs to continue along the path of Islam's martyrs in safeguarding the Islamic system. He graciously stated: "The families of the martyrs have invested more than anyone else in the Islamic system of Iran. Therefore, they must be more sensitive than others in safeguarding the system and its integrity, while making efforts to strengthen Islam and to consolidate the system and the pride of the revolution. [Passage omitted]

4 Drug Gangs Uncovered in Central Province

LD1508130289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] From the start of the implementation of the second stage of the al-Adiyat project [narcotics combatting project] in the central province up to now, four big narcotics gangs have been uncovered and broken by the Islamic Revolution Guards of the central province, and 24 merchants of death have been arrested. The official in charge of the antinarcotics squad of the central province, in an interview with a Central News Unit reporter, announced this and said: A total of 55 kilogrammes of opium and opimium juice, 360 grammes of heroin, 4 weapons, 460 bullets, and more than 1 million rials in cash has been discovered and confiscated from the more experienced members of this gang who have been arrested and who were active outside the central province.

Also, from the start of the implementation of the second stage of the al-Adiyat project up to now, 440 addicts have been arrested after having been identified. At the conclusion of this interview, he requested that people aim to uproot the destructive affliction of addiction, just as they have done in the past by cooperating with the Guards of the Islamic Revolution Committees.

Commentary on Hunger Strikes in Turkish Prisons

NC1408104189 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] It has been reported that a tense and confused situation has existed at Turkish prisons for the past 2

weeks as a result of unfavorable conditions in the prisons and the infringement of the rights of detainees and convicts. The Turkish Government, meanwhile, is reported to be trying to find a way to ease the tension.

It was reported last week that the hunger strike by 280 detainees at the Eskisehir penitentiary was in its 36th day, which prompted a number of inmates in other prisons to stage hunger strikes in support of the Eskisehir detainees. Political detainees in Bartin and ordinary convicts elsewhere have announced that they will continue their hunger strikes if officials fail to respond favorably to their demands. A total of 20,000 individuals, both Turks and Kurds, have been involved in the strike action thus far. Justice Minister Oltan Sungurlu has stated that inmates in at least four prisons have gone on hunger strikes and have taken control of their cells. Sungurlu told journalists in Istanbul that prison guards lacked the motivation to regain control of the prisons because of the low wages and bonuses they receive. Consequently, he said, they are not carrying out their duties as they should.

Meanwhile, Turkish officials have disclosed that the country's prisons are in a bad state. There are two reasons for this: cuts by the Ozal government in the general services budget and the strained political situation in Turkey.

The Ozal government is confronted with very difficult political conditions at present. It is faced with the problems of inflation, unemployment, a budget deficit, and foreign debt and needs a coordinated program to remove them. Turkish officials made further cuts in the general budget after the Motherland Party suffered a defeat in local elections. The Ozal government is curbing spending in general and moving to realize profit-making investments in an effort to ease the financial pressure on the government. Consequently, the budget allocated for prison services has been cut. As a result, no new prisons have been built although the number of ordinary and political prisoners has risen steadily.

On the other hand, prison guards have been neglecting their duties because of cuts in their wages. This has led to a further deterioration in the situation at the prisons and added to the pressure on the detainees. In addition to their complaints about unfavorable conditions, the hunger strikers are also protesting over being subjected to torture during interrogation by officials who behave in an inhumane way. According to the disclosures that have been made, the torture of detainees to extract information from them or to force them to (?confess) to past crimes is a common practice in Turkish prisons. Political and other circles in Turkey have reported that convicts, particularly political detainees, are being subjected to various forms of torture. Since the military coup in 1980, more than 50 officials have appeared before Turkish courts on charges of torturing detainees. Nevertheless, security forces continue to regard torture as a shortcut in achieving their objectives. They are convinced that reducing the funds allocated to the detainees and torturing suspects are ways of forcing the detainees to admit to their crimes.

One of the reasons for the constant increase in the number of detainees in Turkey is the tension created by the security forces because of the issue of the Kurdish insurgents. Although it has been 4 years since clashes began between the Turkish Army and the Kurdish Workers Party, known as the PKK, political problems in the provinces where the Kurds live have not been resolved. Ankara has decided to reinforce the military and security forces in southeastern Anatolia in an effort to surpress the Kurdish guerrillas. This, however, is exacerbating the hostility between the Army and the Kurdish insurgents. Turkey will have to consider all military and political factors if it seeks to address the basic causes of the recent disturbances in the prisons.

It is believed that unless Turkish officials make an effort to address these fundamental problems, the detainees and convicts in that country will not be able to tolerate the unfavorable living and legal conditions in Turkish prisons any longer.

Commentary on Kurds, Strikes in Turkey
NC1608164789 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Reports from Turkey during the past few days indicate that serious clashes are taking place between the government forces and Kurds opposed to the government in that country in the southeastern border regions. Meanwhile, a number of other reports indicate that the strike by iron and steel industry workers continues. The workers resorted to a strike because of the failure of Turkish officials to make a positive move in connection with the demand made by the Turkish iron and steel workers trade union for a 200 percent wage increase. The strike is now in its 100th day. It has been disclosed that Turkey's economy has suffered a loss of about $300 million thus far as a result of the strike by more than 18,500 workers in the iron and steel plants in Iskenderun and Karabuk. Furthermore, prices of iron and steel products in the Turkish markets have increased by 40 percent as a result of the strike. The iron and steel plants in Turkey meet 30 percent of the country's needs.

On the other hand, it has been reported that about 500 village guards in Kurdish regions in southeastern Anatolia resigned last Friday as a result of the intensive clashes between the government forces and Kurdish fighters, who are opposed to the state. Furthermore, a number of casualties have been reported on both sides as a result of the clashes. The Kurdish fighters set fire to an installation operated by [word indistinct] in Hakkari Province and a high school in one of the border towns in retaliation against the attacks of the government forces.

According to official reports by the Turkish Government, Turkish military forces launched serious attacks against Kurdish fighters on the Cudi mountain and killed at least 20 of them. It must be pointed out that the Kurds, who are opposed to the state in Turkey and who live in Turkey's eastern and southeastern regions, have direct relations with the Kurds in northern Iraq. A large number of the Kurdish forces moved into Turkey's eastern and southeastern regions following the Iraqi regime's initiatives to resettle the Kurds in northern Iraq. It should be noted that the clashes betwen the Turkish Government forces and the Kurds moved into southeastern Anatolia.

Meanwhile, the Turkish Government has taken serious oppressive and suppressive measures in the Kurdish areas in the country with a view to place the Kurds in the region under control and obstruct the immigration of new Kurdish groups from Iraq to Turkey.

Pakistan

Yaqub Khan Leaves for Tehran, Damascus Visits

BK1608154989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan left Karachi for Tehran today on a 2-day visit to Iran. He will exchange views with the Iranian leaders on regional and bilateral issues including Afghanistan. The foreign minister will also pay a day's visit to Damascus on Friday [18 August] to hold similar talks.

Troops To Deploy for Ziaul Haq Anniversary

BK1608150489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1454 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 16 (AFP)—Paramilitary troops will be deployed in Islamabad to prevent mob "unruliness" Thursday [17 August], the first anniversary of former President Mohammad Ziaul Haq's death, official sources said here Wednesday.

"To ensure safety of the people and property, the Frontier Constabulary will be deployed at vantage points," the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) quoted officials as saying.

Opposition leaders have planned a large religious rally for Thursday at the Pakistani capital's Faisal mosque to commemorate the death of General Ziaul Haq.

The officials, cited by AAP, said troops would be used "to prevent the mob from resorting to any unruliness." It was also deemed "necessary to safeguard a large number of foreign missions and important buildings," they said.

The government has allowed free access for family and admirers of the late president to the mosque, where they are scheduled to say prayers and read from the Koran, Islam's holy book, at the side of Gen. Ziaul Haq's grave.

But the authorities have warned against trying to turn the religious gathering into a political event and have banned participants from carrying firearms.

Observers here said it would be the first time that paramilitary troops would be deployed in Islamabad amid fears of unrest.

Groups Clash; Police Use Tear Gas

BK1708000189 Hong Kong AFP in English 2103 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 16 (AFP)—Police fired tear-gas shells to disperse workers of the ruling party and an opposition group who clashed in Rawalpindi Wednesday [16 August]. Members of the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and the opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) were throwing stones and chanting slogans against each other when the police intervened and dispersed them, the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) said. APP did not say how many protestors were involved or if anyone was injured.

The PPP workers had gathered on the city's busy Murree Road to protest an attack on their party's city president, Rashid Mir, earlier Wednesday. Mr. Mir alleged that he was severely beaten by workers of IJI, led by Sheikh Rashid, secretary of the IJI Parliamentary Group in the National Assembly, APP said.

Minister Cited on Attack

BK1708034589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Interior Minister Aitzaz Ehsan has said restrictions under Section 144 [banning assembly of five or more persons in one place] now in force in Islamabad have been relaxed so as to enable the people, who come to offer prayers at Faisal mosque [to mark the first death anniversary of the former President Mohammad Ziaul Haq] have an easy access to the mosque. It is also to allow processions to reach the mosque.

In an interview in Islamabad he said the government believes that the organizers of the Koran recitation will not give the gathering at the mosque a political shape and that they will abide by the announcement to hold only Koran recitation on the occasion. He said the government has already prevented other groups who wanted to observe the day of deliverance. There is no restriction or barrier for the movement of people to and from the mosque and the government expects the organizers to keep this in mind that the groups of people attending the gathering do not enter residential and commercial areas in Islamabad. The government also expects the organizers not to allow the participants of Koran recitation to bring arms with them. The sincerity of purpose of the organizers will be reflected when they do not allow their supporters to bring arms with them to Islamabad.

Mr Ai
properitzaz Ahsan said the protection of the life and the of the rty of the citizens of the capital is the responsibility sive ar government and therefore it has taken comprehen- attend rrangements that no group from among the people ding the gathering goes to these areas.

In rep
Rawalply to a question whether or not the attack in dent dpindi on Rashid Mir, the Rawalpindi unit presi- mount of Pakistan People's Party [PPP], reflects the interioting tension in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, the by bot or minister said, a tense situation always is created extraoth sides. He said that the PPP government is taking said tbrdinary steps to avoid any provocation. He also unjustthe attack on Rashid Mir was unprovoked and conflictifiable, and was aimed at creating tension and ct, but we will not react to any provocation.

BK170 **Further on Clashes**
0530 G08060389 Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text]
and te In Pakistan, police had to resort to baton charge Pakistæar gas in Rawalpindi yesterday to disperse the portersan People's Party [PPP] activists and the sup- workers of the late President General Ziaul Haq. The PPP the allers were taking out a procession protesting against Mir] bleged murderous attack on a party leader [Rashid [Islamiby the members of the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad Clashesic Democratic Alliance] yesterday morning. camp ses erupted, as this procession arrived near the occasicset up by the supporters of the late president on the ion of his death anniversary.

Meanw
Yaqub while, the Pakistani foreign minister, Sahabzada regiona Khan, has arrived in Tehran to hold talks on al and international issues.

Army

BK160 **Chief Cited on Role of Armed Forces**
11 Aug08160589 Karachi DAWN in English g 89 p 1

[Text]
of the Rawalpindi, Aug 10: Gen Mirza Aslam Beg, chief that th Army Staff, said here on Thursday [10 August] umbrelhe role of the Armed Forces was to provide an the polella of external and internal security under which tion of olitical system could run its course for the realisa- of national goals of socio-economic progress.

He wa
two-weas addressing senior officers on the conclusion of major veek high level war games, the precursor to the year. r Army exercise which will be held in winter this

In his c
length closing address the chief of the Army Staff dwelt at institun on the responsibilities of the Armed Forces as an signifiution, the present national environment and the icance of the coming Army exercise.

He rer
facing, eminded the officers of the "challenges we are the Arg, which are both external and internal" and said rmy must meet them with firm conviction and tenacity." He said there was a very delicate and tenuous link between those two responsibilities. "We are fully committed to our responsibilities and shall remain so without creating imbalance between the two dimensions of national security," he added.

He said the nation was fully capable of solving its problems. It had shown resilience in the face of all challenges and crises. It has the ability and determination to find a way out of any difficulty. It was the will of the people which was supreme and should be respected as such.

"National institutions like the Armed Forces have to play their assigned role of maintaining an environment of security in which the political, system chosen by the people could function unhindered," he emphasised.

Gen Mirza Aslam Beg stressed the need for the understanding of national psyche, character and ethos for the fulfillment of national ideals and aspirations. He said the main elements contributing to national consciousness were as follows:

a. As a nation we have a clear vision of our values embodied in the Pakistan movement, which is the bedrock on which our national consciousness has anchored itself.

b. The national identiy and character, he said, have drawn further inspiration from contemporary movements in Iran and Afghanistan. The revoluion in Iran has strengthened our belief in ourselves as a nation and has given the hope that progress and prosperity can be built on firm conviction in the efficacy of national sentiments and ideological inspirations. Likewise, we draw strength from the war in Afghanistan, to rise as a nation, to protect and safeguard our national honour and freedom against heavy odds.

He emphatically stated that the nation was clear about its direction and its destiny. It was only through treading its chosen path that it would reach its goal. If any force dared detract it from its course—no matter what that force might be, internal or external, political or otherwise—it would fail. It would perish even if it was an organised and disciplined body like the Armed Forces.

He cited the examples of Iran and Afghanistan. The shah's forces disintegrated and the invading troops in Afghanistan were forced to retreat. "Let us not lose sight of reality. The sun rising on the horizan of Pakistan has a message to communicate. It reminds us of our identity as a nation and our destiny, which embraces our value system and principels of our life," he asserted.

He told the officers that the nation had always given its unstinted support, love and respect to the Armed Forces. It had always been prepared for any sacrifice for the

country. Awareness of this fact was most important to further strengthen the bonds of solidarity between the nation and its Armed Forces in the larger interests of the country.

"It is in self-realisation, awareness of our true identity and identification of the true aspirations of the nation that our salvation lies," he pointed out. "I am absolutely certain that you are conscious of it. The fact that you are fully aware of it is a source of strength to me and reinforce my belief and confidence that we are fully capable of discharging the responsibilities that the nation has placed on our shoulders. We shall continue to protect our beloved country from external threats as well as internal chaos. I am confident that we are capable of meeting our obligations," he declared.

He asked the officers to fully comprehend the scenario and stand by to discharge their responsibility of ensuring peace and security so that the nation could march to its destiny with confidence.

Speaking of the just concluded war games at the exercise control centre, the chief of the Army Staff said they were meant to prepare senior commanders to fully participate in and benefit from the major winter manoeuvres which will expose them and their troops in the field to many problems and challenges. He complimented the participants of the war games on developing very realistic plans for the exercise which reflected both professionalism and maturity of military thought. He said the integration of the plans into a single whole will make it possible to fight a balanced defensive battle, creating conditions for the launching of the main strategic manoeuvre.

He said the purpose of the exercise, which will be culmination of a two-year cycle of preparation, was to further enhance the deterrent capability of the Army and to give it further confidence in its ability to deal with any threat to the security of the country.

Advising the senior commanders to take full advantage of the exercise as such opportunities were not very frequent, he told them that they would acquire valuable understanding of operational problems, logistics and matters concerning integration of forces.

They should further study and analyse the concepts evolved during the exercise to ensure that they were correctly understood by all because that alone would ensure positive results, he added.

He said the winter manoeuvres would be held 200 to 300 kilometres away from the eastern border and will involve seven to eight infantry divisions, an armoured, artillery, anti-aircraft and engineer brigades.

Pakistan Air Force will also fully participate in the exercise. Delegates from a number of foreign countries will attend the exercise as observers, he stated.

He said these facts were being publicised so that no apprehension was caused in the mind of "our neighbours" and added: "We shall keep the hotline busy to dispel any doubts".

Speaking of the cost of the exercise, he said it would not be even 10 per cent of the Rs. [rupees] 300 crore spent by India on its Brastacks exercise held in 1987 as maximum economy had been achieved through careful planning and bringing into the exercise only of those elements of formations and units that were essential to the objectives of the exercise.

Those present during the address were, among others, Lt-Gen. Ahmed Kamal Khan, deputy chief of the Army Staff; corps commanders; principal staff Officers of the General Headquarters; representatives of the Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Air Force; and senior Army officers.

Commentary Hails Beg's Remarks

BK1208144589 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Mohammad Yamin commentary]

[Text] In his address to the senior Army staff officers yesterday, General Mirza Aslam Beg, the chief of the Army Staff, made many significant points. Most important of these points was about the role of Armed Forces. As the Army chief said, its role is to provide an umbrella for external and internal security under which the country's political system could run its course for the realization of national goals of social and economic progress. Acknowledging that the nation had acquired sufficient maturity to solve its problems and has displayed resilience in the face of challenges, Gen Mirza Aslam Beg stressed that the will of the people was supreme and must always be respected. He reminded his audience of the Armed Forces' dual responsibilities toward external and internal security, and declared that the commitment of the Armed Forces toward these dimensions of national security would continue without creating an imbalance between the two or (?hindering) the operation of political system chosen by the people.

Equally unequivocal was the general's observation that if any force dared to interfere with this process—no matter where such a threat emanated from—it was destined to perish, even if it came from an organized body like the Armed Forces. In this context he cited the example of late shah of Iran's forces which disintegrated in the face of determined public opposition, and the invading Soviet forces which had to retreat from Afghanistan when that force faced popular resistance.

Coming from the Army chief, these pronouncements are a clear indication of [words indistinct] by the present Army leadership of the role of Armed Forces in the body politic of the country. Army being undoubtedly a most vital organ of the state, this enunciation of Army's perception of a very important issue is as reassuring as

indeed it is timely. As for General Mirza Aslam Beg personally, he has [words indistinct] by words and deeds and on more than one occasion given adequate evidence of his patriotism, abidance by the constitutional requirements, and recognition of the supremacy of the government constituted by law. His noble role and courageous decision in the face the the vacuum that was crated on account of the unforeseen events of August 17 last year [General Ziaul Haq's death] would be long remembered in the history of Pakistan. No tribute is too generous for the relentless drive that he and his colleagues in the Armed Forces made that day for the return to the rule of Constitution.

General Beg's address to his staff officers has reaffirmed his resolve that he made on August 17, 1989, and it should dispel doubt or speculation, if any, with regard to the Armed Forces' role in the country's political affairs.

In this connection it would perhaps not be out of place to mention the observations made by the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, yesterday regarding her firm belief in the rule of law. Talking to the media in Peshawar, the prime minister emphasized the need for following the Constitution on all matters and thus strengthening the national unity. She also spoke of reconciliation as a viable policy which would insure success of the rule of law. One would like to recollect the struggle for freedom launched by the Muslims of South Asia in the subcontinent. Pitted against the colonial rulers and a local adversary which enjoyed material preponderance in every field, the Muslim nation waged a battle on a constitutional plane and won without the use of military equipment. After independence the nation received full support of its Armed Forces in the achievement of national goals. So long as this continued, it was a happy state of affairs. The moment, however, their path deviated from each other, disaster followed.

General Mirza Aslam Beg deserves everyone's gratitude for redefining the apt and honorable place for the country's Armed Forces in the national life.

Sri Lanka

'Civilian Casualties' LTTE's Motive for Attack

BK1608155489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] It has now been revealed that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] deliberately chose a crowded market place in Velvettiturai on the 2d of August to attack a PKF [Peacekeeping Force] patrol party knowing that there would be high civilian casualty which could be used for its propaganda purposes.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi that the motive behind the attack could be either to disrupt the present dialogue between India and Sri Lanka or to get a better bargaining position for the militants in the proposed peace committees.

The PKF repulsed the attack and in the crossfire 24 civilians died. Five LTTE men were killed. The PKF lost 6 men and its 11 soldiers were injured.

Northeast Chief Denies LTTE Rumors on Arson

BK1708051189 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] The chief minister of the Northeastern Province, Mr Varadaraja Perumal, has refuted the allegations made by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] about the number of civilians killed in the recent encounter at Velvettiturai between the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] and the LTTE. These visuals are from the scene of the encounter, which took place on the 2d of this month. [Doordarshan presents a clip on site of the encounter in Velvettiturai]. There was no large-scale destruction of houses as alleged by the LTTE. The encounter took place, when the LTTE ambushed a IPKF patrol in a busy market place. Some civilians were killed in the cross fire. The number was exaggerated by the LTTE. There is no sign of arson in the area. The chief minister yesterday went around Velvettiturai. At the end of his visit he spoke to Doordarshan correspondent, Arasu.

[Begin Varadaraja Perumal recording in Tamil] It is very sad that LTTE cadres like Mahattaya, Prabhakaran, and Kittu, who were born in Velvettiturai, hatched and executed a conspiracy to massacre the people of the same village. Moreover, there were rumors about the destruction of hundreds of houses and shops in the area. It also impelled me to come over here personally and see. But, I do not see any case of arson here. [end recording]

Uva Head Minister, 4 Others Injured in Attack

BK1708084689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the chief minister of the Uva Province and four others were injured in an attack by subversives at Welimada early this morning. Reports say a group of subversives attacked the house of the chief minister, Mr Percy Samaraweera, with hand bombs and automatic weapons. Mr Samaraweera was injured. Search operations have been launched to nab the culprits.

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